FBIS DAILY REPORT

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VOP COMMENTS ON U.S. APPROVAL OF PLANES DEAL

JN172003Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[News analysis]

[Text] Following the wave of acute argument, tension and agitation which prevailed in all quarters concerned with the U.S. planes deal, the U.S. Congress gave its consent to go ahead with this bargain. In accord with this deal, the U.S. administration will offer 90 F-15 and F-16 planes to Israel, 50 F-15 planes [as heard] of very limited efficiency to Egypt and 60 F-15 planes to Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. Congress' approval of the planes deal has caused prompt reaction in the United States, the Zionist entity, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. In Washington the U.S. President expressed his pleasure at congressional approval of his special scheme regarding the U.S. planes and said: This action affirms our historical commitment to Israel and its security, which will continue.

In the Zionist entity, despite Israel's lion share in the deal, getting the more developed and more effective planes without limitation or conditions on their use, the Zionist quarters expressed their deep regret at the congressional decision. Menahem Begin, prime minister of the enemy, said in commenting on the decision: This regrettable decision will make it incumbent on us to deal with specified questions in the future, and there is no justification at all for selling arms to countries at war with Israel.

In Cairo the Egyptian president's enthusiasm was clear following Congress' approval of sending Egypt 50 F-5 planes [as heard] with greatly limited powers. Through his acquisition of these planes, described by political observers as 10 times inferior to the F-16 planes obtained by Israel in the same deal, the Egyptian president tries to convince others that his capitulatory initiative has achieved something--that is, acquiring these [word indistinct] planes which were crossed off the lists for modern wars a long time ago. Moreover, knowing that the limited range of these planes will make them mere parade planes, we realize the new insult directed against the Egyptian president, who has been strangely panting to buy bad and inferior U.S. weapons. It is obvious that another failure is added to the Egyptian president's policy; he will not utilize these planes to fight Israel--as he several times announced--for this is contrary to the essence of his capitulatory policy, expressed by his treacherous initiative, opening the door to recognition and negotiation with the Zionist enemy.

In fact, there is not any justification for this enthusiasm and exaggerated excitement as a result of this biased deal, whether in Cairo or elsewhere. The U.S. F-15 planes designated for Saudi Arabia are divested of much of their technical equipment, diminishing their fighting value. They are also tied up by many political restrictions, limiting their use. This will make them mere hardware.

In view of our conviction that these planes will not constitute any threat to the security of the Zionist entity--for the reasons we have mentioned--the deal in itself merely grants Israel more of the modern weapons of technical perfection which give it strategic advantage in the Arab-Zionist struggle. It will lead the Zionist enemy to greater intransigence and flouting of Arab rights, urging him on to more aggression. If the United States wants to say that it follows a balanced policy in the Middle East in this planes deal--despite the different powers and efficiency of the planes and the political conditions on their use, especially for Egypt and Saudi Arabia--we have a right to wonder, in view of the inferiority of the planes granted to Egypt and Saudi Arabia and the superiority of the planes granted to Israel, what a strange sort of balance this is and what naive mentality could be convinced by it.

If the United States is ambitious for a new, more effective and comprehensive role for the Egyptian president against the Arab nation and the progressive trends in Africa, as the Egyptian president (?hints), does the U.S. administration think this deal will give new momentum to As-Sadat's capitulatory line in the Arab region? The coming days will reveal more of the U.S. aims behind the big plot concocted by the U.S. administration against the Arab nation.

The implementation of this plot is led by the Egyptian president himself, who began to pay part of the price of this humiliating deal when he announced 2 days ago that he is ready to sign a unilateral agreement with the Zionist enemy. All this is at the expense of Arab rights and in the interest of the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism in the Arab region.

'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA

LD171544Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0855 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has praised the Palestinians' relations with the kingdom and described them as strategic relations which are deeply rooted and have great and important dimensions stemming from an understanding of this strategy. This came in a statement made by Yasir 'Arafat published today by AR-RIYADH.

Yasir 'Arafat pointed out that the kingdom's attitude is honorable, unswerving and beyond suspicion. Talking about his recent visit to the kingdom and his meeting with His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, viceroy and crown prince, Yasir 'Arafat said that this visit, like all other visits, enabled him to reach an understanding of ideas and attitudes. He added that he came out of his meeting with His Royal Highness the Amir Fahd more assured and optimistic with regard to prospects for the efforts aimed at regaining the right and the land.

In his statement to AR-RIYADH Yasir 'Arafat also talked about the battles in which the Palestinian forces are engaged in southern Lebanon. He reaffirmed that the resistance did not lose much ammunition, despite the ferocious and violent nature of the fighting.

Regarding the PLO's attitude toward the proposed Arab summit meeting, Yasir 'Arafat said that the summit meeting, like any other meeting, is a means and not an aim and that we ought to know what is the aim of any Arab meeting. He said that he welcomes the meeting if the aim is to establish real Arab solidarity in struggle in which all sides should be committed to the confrontation of the Zionist occupation.

Yasir 'Arafat then talked about the U.S. attitude toward the Palestinian question and expressed the hope that this attitude has changed in a manner which is compatible with the Arab interest.

PALESTINIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL TO MEET IN DAMASCUS

LD171700Y Damascus ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 May 78 pp 1, 11 LD

[Text] Muhammad Zuruf reports: Chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC] Khalid al-Fahum declared that invitations have been sent out to members of the Central Council, which is scheduled to meet in Damascus on 20 May.

In an exclusive statement to ATH-THAWRAH, Al-Fahum said that the meeting is very important because it follows new political developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. Al-Fahum said that the council will discuss a number of important matters and issues. These are:

1. To fix the date and venue of the meeting of the PNC, which, according to the basic statutes of the PLO, was supposed to meet at the end of last March, but which was postponed because of the conditions resulting from the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. With regard to the place of the meeting, it is usually held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, but this has no longer become acceptable since As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem. The council cannot meet in a capital where a military committee is permanently stationed and where visits are exchanged between officials of the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enemy.

2. To study the new situation following the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the future PLO policies in Lebanon on the basis of the agreements concluded between the PLO and the Lebanese authorities, especially the Cairo 1969 agreement. This is in view of the desire to work jointly with the Lebanese brothers and the rest of the Arab brothers in order to hasten an end to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, to restore calm to all the Lebanese territories and to insure the integrity of Lebanon and its total sovereignty over all Lebanese territories, including the south.

3. To study the situation in the Palestinian arena and the relations between the various resistance groups within the PLO in the light of the need at the present stage to unify all the Palestinian capabilities in the face of Zionist aggression and the U.S. attempts to ignore the inalienable and legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Such attempts were evident in the statements made by senior U.S. administration officials, the latest being that of President Carter in which he adopted terrorist Menahem Begin's plan to establish a so-called self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Such a plan in fact means Israeli annexation of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, the liquidation of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, the liquidation of the Palestinian problem and the abolition of the Palestinian Arab identity. The plan also represents a defiance of the Arab summit resolutions in Rabat and Algiers and aims at frustrating the aspirations of our Arab nation because the liquidation of the Palestinian problem could only be an interlude to further Israeli expansions, and a further step toward the achievement of Zionist dreams in the great Arab homeland.

4. To study the new developments in the Arab arena in light of the current efforts to convene a new Arab summit conference under the slogan of Arab solidarity. The PLO has previously called and continues to call for Arab solidarity so as to be a strong barrier in the face of Zionist ambitions which are supported by the United States. It is to be stressed here that Arab solidarity has been weakened and rendered meaningless as a result of As-Sadat's surrender initiative. Therefore, the PLO, being a key element in the steadfastness and confrontation front and the primary target of the U.S.-Israeli plans, can only do all it can in order to bring about strong Arab solidarity.

PLO'S QADDUMI HOLDS TALKS WITH PRC AMBASSADOR

JN171748Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, yesterday received the PRC ambassador in Beirut. The radio correspondent has learned that the meeting dealt with the latest developments of the situation in the Middle East.

KUWAIT

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CONFERS WITH IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER

LD171426Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 May 78 ID

[Text] At 0930 today, Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah conferred with Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi. Foreign Under Secretary Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rashid stated after the meeting that the two ministers exchanged views on bilateral, Arab and international issues. He added that the meeting reflected the desire of both Kuwait and its sister Iraq to turn the wheel of bilateral cooperation forward and to work for the unity of the Arab ranks.

Both sides discussed the obstacles being experienced in Arab relations. The two sides' views were identical on the need to clear the Arab atmosphere, to work toward closing and strengthening Arab ranks, to defend the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and to work to regain the occupied Arab territories.

It was clear, Mr ar-Rashid added, that such meetings between the two sister countries of Kuwait and Iraq, and between officials in other Arab countries, are not only useful but also essential.

Another meeting was held between Kuwaiti Finance Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman Salim al-Atiqi, and member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] and Trade Minister Mr Hasan 'Ali al-Amiri. A number of issues of mutual interest were discussed, especially in the economic and financial spheres. The subcommittees of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi ministerial committee met this morning to discuss areas of cooperation between the two countries in various fields. The oil committee, the economic committee, the electricity and water committee and the education and information committee met in the presence of experts in those fields from both countries. Our radio and television correspondent has learned that the subcommittee will present their recommendations to the joint ministerial committee.

Subcommittees Formed

JN171549Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 17 May--Five Iraqi-Kuwaiti subcommittees will begin to hold periodic meetings in Baghdad and Kuwait as of June. This was decided at a meeting held here today between Hasan 'Ali, member of the RCC and trade minister, and 'Abd al-Wahab an-Nifisi, Kuwaiti minister of commerce and industry. The INA correspondent reports that the five subcommittees pertain to the fields of trade and industry, labor and employment, tourism and summer resorts, the coordination of industrial and oil projects, and the regulation of investments and payments affairs.

Agreement was also reached at the meeting to conclude a protocol to amend the economic cooperation agreement which was signed in 1964 and which exempts commodities exchanged between the two countries from customs fees.

The two sides discussed the possibility of establishing joint projects in the fields of industry, agriculture, insurance and banking. Agreement was reached to link the two countries by rail to transport passengers and cargo.

Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali met with Kuwaiti Finance Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi. They discussed economic and financial relations between the two countries and the agenda for the forthcoming session of the Arab Economic Unity Council, which will be held in the first week of June.

Trade Ministers Meet

JN180822Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 May 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 18 May--Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and minister of trade, met again this morning with 'Abd al-Wahab an-Nifisi, Kuwaiti minister of commerce and industry. During the meeting, they discussed the final drafts of several economic agreements as well as the possibility of increasing trade between the two fraternal countries. They also discussed questions related to the second conference of trade and economy ministers of the Gulf states which will be held in Saudi Arabia this year and will follow up the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the first conference held in Baghdad last year.

OMAN

MOROCCAN ENVOY ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR SULTAN QABUS

JN171455Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Muscat, 17 May--(Idris Cludi), adviser to the Moroccan monarch, arrived here this afternoon with a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. He was received at the airport by Thuwayni ibn Shihab, private adviser to the sultan of Oman.

SAUDI ARABIA

INFORMATION MINISTER PRAISES OUTCOME OF SENATE VOTE ON PLANES

NC171040Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 17 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 17 May--'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, has described the U.S. Senate's approval of the U.S. planes package deal for Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel as a positive step indicating a change in the American people's attitude toward the Arab nation. In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM today, the Kuwaiti minister expressed hope that the United States will change its general policy toward the Arab nation and its just causes in the interest of the Arab and American peoples. He also said he hopes the American people will realize where their interests lie in the area.

Meanwhile, Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, in a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, said that the 60 planes which go to Saudi Arabia under this package deal do not meet the Kingdom's defense needs. They are insignificant, considering the magnitude of Saudi defense requirements, nor do they mean anything as far as the Arab-Israeli defense balance is concerned.

Dr Yamani explained the other aspect of this deal, namely its moral significance. For the first time in the history of U.S. politics and administration, he said, the White House has been able to get what it wants from Congress on the basis of the administration's own assessment of the international situation which, the administration feels, differs from the assessment of other democratic bodies such as Congress and the press.

In his statement to the newspaper AS-SIYASAH, the Saudi information minister also said: The fact that the deal was approved has great significance in that it means that the Saudi viewpoint is important to and is taken into consideration by the U.S. administration. For Israel, it was a test to determine the degree of its influence in Washington, where it once used to dictate what it wanted to the U.S. administration through Congress and the press. This is the first time the Israeli lobby has failed to dictate its wishes to the U.S. administration, which is now convinced that there are states with logical and just views which must be supported.

Asked whether this result means a change in the real structure of the U.S. administration, Mr Yamani said that the fact that the administration has managed to have the deal approved, and the Saudi activity there, mean that many things can now be expected, especially since ours is a just cause and we do not seek expansion.

Press Reaction

LD1710437 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh--In their comments today the Saudi press discusses the deal under which U.S. aircraft will be supplied to countries of the Middle East, pointing out that what primarily interests the Arabs is the fact that U.S. public opinion has begun to understand, has exposed Zionism for what it really is and has driven the first nail in the coffin of the Israeli lobby.

AR-RIYADH says that Israel is angry and is impudently asking how the U.S. Senate can let her down, refusing her request and saddening the leaders of Zionism. The paper adds that in Israel's eyes, Washington has committed an abominable crime. The paper says that the Arab attitude would not have changed if the U.S. Senate had obeyed the orders of the Israeli lobby, because the aircraft we get will not change our military policy. The paper goes on: The problem of obtaining arms, as far as the Arabs are concerned, is no longer a problem, because the European markets are wide open and Arab funds are plentiful; supply is greater than demand. The paper says that what took place in the Congress was a face-saving move for the United States, and this victory should inevitably be followed by other triumphs until ultimately the United States implements the principles it has always advocated.

AR-RIYADH says: The Arabs have to watch out for what follows this deal. We see nothing that calls for total satisfaction or complete optimism. There is nothing to justify issuing statements of support. We did not obtain these aircraft alone. We have to wait to see how Carter will strike a balance between the two opposites--peace on the one hand, and war on the other.

AL-JAZIRAH points out that the Senate's approval of the aircraft deal has clearly reaffirmed the success of the quiet diplomacy that the Kingdom has pursued for the past months with the American administration prior to the congressional vote on the deal. It has also consolidated Arab confidence in the American administration and its ability to act freely despite Zionist pressures.

The paper says that approval of the aircraft deal has broken Israel's former monopoly of U.S. arms. The approval of the deal is also a disgraceful defeat in the Congress for the Zionist lobby, which lost despite its information campaign and vast capabilities for bargaining and threatening.

AL-JAZIRAH points out that the congressional approval also demonstrates the concern of Congress for the continuation of good relations with the friendly Arab states and for opening a new page in its dealings with them free of blind commitment to Israel's wishes and suspect aims.

The paper describes the approval of the deal as constituting a significant change in U.S. policy toward the Middle East, a matter which made the enemy's former prime minister [as received] Shimon Peres say: "It is a sad day in the history of U.S.-Israeli relations." The paper says that the Arabs can benefit from this reality by continuing a balanced, logical policy of continuing pressure.

The paper concluded its comment by saying that U.S. President Carter is expected to use the vote he obtained in the Congress to continue the peace efforts by taking a step from the realm of hope to the realm of exerting pressure and direct influence.

In its comment AN-NADWAH says that the concentrated efforts of U.S. President Carter and members of his administration have proved some kind of American awareness of their real role, which should be in harmony with the mutual interests of the United States and the countries of the Middle East. The paper adds that this awareness should extend to embrace the whole of the Middle East problem.

The paper points out that Carter undoubtedly realizes the seriousness of what took place in Congress at dawn yesterday; he also realizes that a just and permanent peace in the Middle East requires a firm and practical stand that puts an end to Israeli arrogance.

The paper concludes its comment by saying that Carter has proved that the United States is free to act and direct its policy according to its own interests; this is a unique experiment by Carter with which we hope he will tackle the more difficult problem--the Middle East crisis and its main issue, the Palestinian problem.

'UKAZ says that the approval of the deal has reaffirmed that there is an understanding of the Arab right, on the one hand, and of the Zionist expansionist policy on the other. Therefore, the Arabs should exploit this new attitude and work for the development of the American role.

The paper concludes: This new understanding should lead us to bigger steps in the Western arena, where the landmarks of our struggle and the reality of our attitude should be reaffirmed. This is the role that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is playing in international circles--the role which has proved its effectiveness in confronting the Zionist lobby in the United States and other Western capitals.

OMANI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN RIYADH

LD171038Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0735 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qais 'Abd al-Munim Zawawi arrived in Riyadh this morning on a brief visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed on his arrival at the airport by the political affairs under secretary at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ash-Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, and by an official from the Royal Protocol Department.

Delivers Message

LD171312Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--At noon today, the viceroy and crown prince, His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, received in his office at the Royal Court the minister of state for foreign affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, Qais 'Abd al-Munim Zawawi, who conveyed to his royal highness a message from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, to his brother His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The SAUDI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the message concerns issues of common interest and current developments in the Arab situation. The meeting was attended by the under secretary for political affairs at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ash-Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri.

Returns Home

LD171322Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qais 'Abd al-Munim Zawawi left Riyadh this afternoon for home following a brief visit to the Kingdom. He was seen off at the airport by the under secretary for political affairs at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ash-Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, and by an official from the Royal Protocol Department.

INTERIOR MINISTRY TO CRACK DOWN ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

LD161645Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 16 May--Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the interior minister, confirmed the importance of the positive results of his meeting with brother interior ministers of the Gulf states. He said that views exchanged with them had a role in achieving what all seek, namely, to provide security and tranquillity for the sons of the area.

The minister said in the statement he granted to AL-MADINAH published today, that he found response from all as well as a desire to develop security services still further in the shadow of the Islamic Shari'ah.

The minister referred to the recent decision of the Interior Ministry on remedying the status of those who have stayed behind after the pilgrimage and those who are illegal residents. He said that the ministry's policy is that it should caution people before it punishes them. This is what prompted the ministry to issue a statement about its intention to correct the conditions of the people who came to the country but failed to leave and about its decision to open offices in all regions of the country manned by the necessary number of officials and furnished with all the powers needed to remedy the conditions of these residents.

He explained that a period of 2 months was fixed as of 6 May 1978, 1 Jamad al-'Ula 1398, to correct these conditions, after which the ministry will take the necessary action, which includes imprisonment and deportation at the person's own expense, as well as imprisonment and fines for those who harbor illegal residents.

UAE

SUDANESE ENERGY MINISTER ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI

JN161046Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 May--Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining Ma-mun 'Awad Abu Zayd arrived here this morning on a visit of several days to the UAE. Abu Zayd will discuss with the UAE officials bilateral relations, particularly concerning oil.

INFORMATION MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH BAHRAINI COUNTERPART

JN171549Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 May--A round of talks was held here this afternoon between the UAE delegation led by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid, minister of information and culture, and the Bahraini delegation led by Tariq al-Mu'ayyad, minister of information. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and held consultations on information coordination between the two countries. They also discussed the possibilities of information and cultural cooperation.

YEMEN -YAR

AS-SIYASAH: PREPARATIONS BEING MADE TO SUPPRESS REBELLION

NC171235Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1125 GMT 17 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 17 May--Quoting diplomatic sources in the UAE, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reports today that huge military preparations are currently underway in San'a'. These preparations are aimed at sending forces to Ta'izz Province to confront the military rebellion being led by Col 'Abdallah 'Abd al-'Alim, member of the Yemeni Command Council.

The paper adds that Colonel 'Abd al-'Alim has withdrawn from the capital, San'a', together with some of the armed brigades, which number over 5,000 soldiers. They took up position on the road between Ta'izz and Al-Hajariyah area.

The paper points out that Col 'Abdallah 'Abd al-'Alim is leading this movement because orders were about to be issued removing him and a large number of his supporters.

PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI ACCEPTS INVITATION TO VISIT DPRK

JN151344Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, the president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office at 1000 today Mr Kim Yong-il, the DPRK ambassador to the YAR. The SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that during this meeting the ambassador conveyed to President al-Ghashmi an official invitation from President Kim Il-song to visit the DPRK. The brother president graciously accepted the invitation. A date for the visit will be fixed later.

The discussion during this meeting dealt with the relations between the two friendly countries.

MINISTER OF STATE ABU RAS DIES OF HEART ATTACK

JN130934Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 May 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 13 May--Shaykh Amin Hasan Abu Ras, minister of state and member of the Constitutent People's Assembly, died here today of a heart attack. It is recalled that 75-year-old Shaykh Abu Ras was one of the major supporters of a republican regime in the YAR. He participated in defending the Yemeni revolution in 1962.

WAR MINISTER AL-JAMASI COMMENTS ON F-5 PLANES DEAL

NC1717422 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 17 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 May--Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi has said that the U.S. F-5 planes deal, the sale of which to Egypt has been approved by the U.S. Congress, is of great political importance. Moreover, from the military viewpoint, it represents an increase in the capabilities of the Egyptian Air Force because these planes are an addition to the other types of planes which we already have.

General al-Jamasi said that although this deal includes 50 planes, Egypt's strategy is basically built around the French Mirage planes for support and development of its air force.

Al-Jamasi affirmed that this did not mean that we will do away with the MIG-17's, the MIG-21's or the other Eastern bloc aircraft we have. We shall be using them until the end of their lifespan.

During a meeting he had today with a group of airmen who had ended their advanced training on MIG-21's at one of the fighter training units, the armed forces commander in chief said: The air force entered the 1973 October war with MIG-17 and MIG-21 aircraft. With these planes it achieved a great deal and is still capable of carrying out the tasks it is entrusted with.

General al-Jamasi said: When the U.S. planes arrive in Egypt, we shall have U.S., French and Eastern bloc planes. This is one of the characteristics of the diversification of the sources of weapons policy that is being implemented.

The armed forces commander in chief added: There has been work and efforts have been exerted by the armed forces ever since October 1973. The air force in particular has been affected by the Soviet ban imposed on us. Although we have overcome this problem in many ways in the armed forces, the main problem has been in the air force [word indistinct]. If we were to consider it, we would find that ever since 1975 a new air force has been developing. The picture will be completed soon, and the air force, as we have always known it, will remain strong and capable; and with the determination of its men and their efforts, we shall, God willing, overcome all the difficulties.

General al-Jamasi said: We need the efforts of individuals. We have always been proud of the fact that we do not have the problem of lack of individuals or cadres because we have cadres. They proved their capabilities in the 1973 October war and are still capable of offering more.

General al-Jamasi said: What is important is that we be capable of using the weapons we have. He said: The individual is the basic element behind each weapon. The Egyptian is capable of achieving a great deal. He indicated that the Egyptian airmen proved that they were capable of mastering the handling of the Mirage plane within 3 years after they were received. This is a relatively short time for mastering such a sophisticated weapon.

Al-Jamasi added: The number of flying hours which were mentioned today and which have been clocked by the airmen in the past 5 years indicates the large number of flying hours required for the training of airmen. These hours are being increased and, God willing, we shall attain higher averages soon.

Concluding his speech, General al-Jamasi called on the pilots to maintain their combat and technical proficiency and physical fitness. He said: We are glad to welcome in our ranks a number of elite pilots who will begin a new life in the air force, after the effort exerted to train them since they joined the air force.

General al-Jamasi today visited a fighter training unit to welcome a number of pilots who have finished advanced training on MIG-21 aircraft. He was accompanied by Air Force Commander Maj Gen Mahmud Shakir, Air Force Chief of Staff Maj Gen Muhammad Nabih al-Masiri and a number of high-ranking commanders.

The pilots flew MIG-21 aircraft and showed their proficiency in using and controlling these planes. They also carried out an exercise in which they fired rockets on ground targets, scoring direct hits.

General al-Jamasi then visited the technical sections and training classes of the unit. At the end of the tour, General al-Jamasi distributed prizes and merit certificates to outstanding officers. He then had lunch with the pilots.

AL-AHRAM ON MEASURES AGAINST POLITICAL PARTIES

LD171750Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 May 78 pp 1, 12 LD

[Text] The AL-AHRAM parliamentary correspondent has learned that President Anwar as-Sadat has asked Dr Mustafa Khalil, first secretary of the [ASU] Central Committee, to take the legal measures provided for in the law on parties against the Leftist [presumably National Progressive Unionist Grouping] Party because of its continued resorting to subversive methods and provocation that have threatened national unity and social peace.

The correspondent has learned that President as-Sadat will shortly--within a week at the latest--call on the people for a public referendum regarding the attitude of those who contributed to corrupting political and party life before 1952 and those who belonged to the centers of power after the 23 July Revolution and whether they should continue to take part in completing the process of democracy.

The referendum will take place on a draft law that provides for purging the old parties that corrupted the political life in Egypt and the centers of power that trampled on Egyptian man's dignity.

Minister of Interior Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il yesterday held an urgent meeting with Maj Gen Kamal al-Hadidi, the minister's assistant for administrative affairs; Maj Gen Hasan al-Mahdi, director of public administration; and Khayri Farhat, in charge of elections affairs at the ministry. As of today arrangements will be made to prepare the electors lists and the voting cards as well as fixing the locations of balloting centers.

President as-Sadat will also notify People's Assembly Speaker Sayyid Mar'i of the names of the assembly members who have abused the democratic atmosphere and deliberately sowed doubts and falsified facts, so that the assembly will take the necessary measures against them.

It is understood that, in accordance with the provisions of the law on the parties, the first secretary of the Central Committee, following the approval of the seven-man committee of which he is the chairman and which consists of the minister of justice, the minister of popular and political organizations, the minister of interior and three senior members of the judiciary who do not belong to any political party, is to ask the court of justice to dissolve a party, liquidate its funds and determine the quarters to which such funds should be turned. This is done for one of the following reasons:

1. In case the party ceases to satisfy any of the founding conditions that provide that the party principles, objectives and programs should not be contrary to the principles of Islamic laws and the preservation of national unity and social peace;

2. In case a final judgment is passed against the party leadership or some of its members in a crime violating national unity, or the alliance of the people's working forces, or social peace, or the socialist democratic system if such crime is committed because of or as a direct result of the leadership's management of the party activities or its behavior.

The law also provides that the first secretary of the Central Committee may, following the approval of the said committee, ask the court urgently to suspend the activities of such party or of any decisions for the aforementioned reasons until a decision is reached on the request to dissolve the party.

The request summons in any of the aforementioned cases, fully stating the reasons on which the request is based, must be served upon the party chairman within 24 hours from the time it is deposited with the court's secretariat. The court must decide within 15 days on the request to suspend the party or any of its decisions. It must also decide quickly on the request to dissolve the party.

INFORMATION MINISTER BRIEFS PRESS ON REFERENDUM

NC171340Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 May 78 NC

[Text] Culture and Information Minister 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi has announced that there can be no going back on the democratic process in Egypt. He said that President as-Sadat, in submitting the six principles for referendum, is exercising his constitutional right. He is calling on the citizens to take part in planning the future policy of the state. 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi was speaking at a press conference he held at noon today. Correspondents of international news agencies and radio and television stations attended.

The information minister said that the political parties must exercise their activity on the basis of three principles: social peace, national unity and socialist democracy. The secretary general of the ASU Central Committee will call for a discussion of any party violation of these principles, and suitable steps will be taken in accordance with existing legislation.

President as-Sadat has proposed six principles to the people so they can choose for themselves, he said.

Asked which side will decide who has corrupted political life before and after the 23 July 1952 Revolution, As-Sawi said: Long discussions have been held on this subject ever since the outbreak of the 1952 revolution.

Some people were tried in courts and convicted in accordance with legal measures that were taken at the time. President as-Sadat has not specified who will be removed for corrupting political life but has drawn up the principles on which the people will be asked their opinion. The People's Assembly will issue a special law on the basis of the results of the referendum which will include the regulations defining those who have corrupted political life. The socialist public prosecuter will be responsible for implementing the law that the People's Assembly will issue.

The information minister stressed that the referendum is not meant to abolish the Al-Wafd Party, as is rumored, but to purify political life from those who corrupted political life in Egypt and to cleanse the democratic atmosphere. No restrictions or censorship will be imposed on the press.

The minister said that no communists will be put on trial for their ideology, but they will be prevented from corrupting political life. The citizens of Egypt consider them agents.

As for Egyptian journalists abroad who attack Egypt, the minister said that their case will be left to the journalists' union.

Concluding the press conference, As-Sawi affirmed that all these steps are designed to deepen freedom and safeguard democracy and correct its course.

INA REPORTS ON CONFISCATION OF AL-AHALI

JN171504Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 17 May--Sources of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party today announced that intelligence servicemen yesterday broke into the press which prints the newspaper AL-AHALI, the paper of that party, and confiscated all copies. The sources add that Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, reporter of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping and AL-AHALI chief editor, and several leaders of the grouping came to the printing press as soon as it was stormed.

Muhyi ad-Din held contacts with the interior minister, the state security chief prosecutor, the jounalists' doyen and the Lawyers' Union Council. He denounced violation of the newspaper's premises which are guaranteed by law. He stressed that this measure violates the simplest rules of democracy and freedom of expression. Muhyi ad-Din and the managing editor of the newspaper appeared before the court at noon today.

The public prosecutor said that AL-AHALI was confiscated because it called for boycotting the referendum which As-Sadat has called for regarding the opposition parties and the imposition of political isolation on a number of personages and prominent party leaders.

The counsel for the defense contested the bill of indictment and pointed out that the statement in the confiscated issue replying to As-Sadat's speech does not call for boycotting the referendum but urges the public to say "no, no" to political isolation and the restriction of liberties.

The confiscation of the newspaper AL-AHALI is a link in the chain which the regime is forging to eliminate the National Progressive Unionist Grouping and the Egyptian left, as well as to muzzle the opposition.

The court postponed study of the case and passing sentence regarding the distribution of the paper, or its confiscation, until a session to be held tomorrow.

Khalid Muhyi ad-Din is scheduled to hold a press conference in the party headquarters this evening to explain the ambiguities of the case. The state security intelligence organs barred the correspondents of the international press and news agencies from attending the court session today.

LABOR ORGANIZATION CHAIRMAN PERMITTED TO STAY

NC171856Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 17 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 May--MENA has learned that Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad today held contacts with the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. In light of these contacts, agreement was reached to permit Dr at-Tayyib al-Hudayri, the Arab labor organization chairman, to remain in Cairo.

Dr al-Hudayri was scheduled to leave Cairo tonight in accordance with a decision issued yesterday to deport him for activities incompatible with the nature of his work in the organization.

Al-Hudayri has unequivocally affirmed his respect for and appreciation of Egypt and the Egyptian people.

JORDANIAN ENVOY MEETS WITH FOREIGN UNDER SECRETARY

JN171833Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Jordanian Ambassador to Egypt Dhuqan al-Hindawi met in Cairo today with Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry under secretary. Al-Hindawi stated that during the meeting they discussed the results of Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak's visit to Jordan and the talks he held with His Majesty King Husayn. The steps to follow up the results of these talks were also discussed.

WAR MINISTER AL-JAMASI TO VISIT U.S. IN EARLY JUNE

JN171043Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Washington, 17 May--An INA correspondent in New York has learned that the war minister in the Egyptian regime, 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, will visit the United States in the first week of June. He will hold talks with U.S. officials on the settlement negotiations between his regime and the Zionist entity and on U.S.-Egyptian relations.

ISRAELI PRESS CITED ON JORDANIAN-ISRAELI CONTACT

JN172014Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] The Zionist newspaper HA'REZ affirmed today that high-level contacts are being held between the Zionist entity and the royal regime in Amman. The paper, which derived this information from a number of senior officials of the royal regime, added that these contacts have not yet produced results.

For its part, the Jerusalem POST did not doubt the truth of what has been reported by HA'REZ. In its issue published today, the paper says that the new contacts between the Zionist entity and the royal regime will pave the way, as this regime is well versed in settlement conspiracy, following the benediction given by King Husayn to As-Sadat's treacherous step.

IRAQI OIL MINISTER KARIM ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

JN171349Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Moscow, 17 May--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, arrived here today to head the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the eighth session of the joint Iraqi-Soviet committee for economic and technical cooperation.

The Soviet-Iraqi committee began its meetings last Wednesday for the purpose of laying down plans aimed at developing joint cooperation in the spheres of oil, industry, agriculture, irrigation and electricity between Iraq and the Soviet Union.

An Iraqi oil delegation led by 'Isam al-Halabi, director general of the general establishment for oil projects, arrived in Moscow at noon today. The delegation will hold talks with officials of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA) dealing with development of cooperation in oil matters.

Signs Minutes

JN171630Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Moscow, 17 May--The minutes of the meetings of the eighth session of the Iraqi-Soviet joint committee for economic and technical cooperation were signed here today. On the Iraqi side the minutes were signed by Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, member of the Revolution Command Council and oil minister, while Skachkov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, signed for the Soviet Union. The minutes include cooperation in the implementation of several new projects in the fields of industry, electricity, agriculture and irrigation. They also provide for the exchange of experts and expertise between the two sides.

The two sides decided that the meeting of the ninth session of the joint committee will be held in Baghdad in March 1979.

TASS DELEGATION BEGINS TALKS WITH INA IN BAGHDAD

JN161400Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 16 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May--Discussions began here today between the Iraqi News Agency [INA] and the Soviet news agency TASS. The discussions were headed by Muhammad Manaf Yasin, INA director general, and Sergey Losev, acting director general of TASS [title as received].

The talks will center on the renewal of the cooperation agreement between the two news agencies for the coming [illegible] in the interests of the issues of Arab struggle and world liberation.

The TASS delegation arrived in Baghdad yesterday.

Tours Press Establishments

JN171548Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1438 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, May 17--The delegation of the Soviet news agency TASS led by Sergey Losev, acting director general of TASS [title as received], visited a number of Iraqi press establishments this morning. During their meetings with the editors and the editorial staffs of the newspapers AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-'IRAQ, and TARIQ ASH-SHA'B, the members of the delegation learned about their organizational structure, the nature of the work and the technical developments in the fields of printing and layout.

The staffs of the newspapers welcomed the friendly Soviet delegation and expressed the hope that the visit would be successful and beneficial to information relations between the agencies of the two countries and between TASS and Iraqi newspapers. They also hoped that cooperation between the press of the two countries would be developed.

During these meetings, the staffs of the newspapers also pointed out Iraqi papers' interest in news, articles and commentaries disseminated by TASS.

The TASS acting director general expressed happiness at the visit and stated that it will help to strengthen and develop information cooperation based on the joint struggle against imperialism. The visit will also strengthen the struggle of the oppressed peoples and promote their social progress. He stressed the role played by Iraq in the international arena and Iraq's interest in information issues, and gave as an example the world information symposium held in Baghdad last year, with its positive results in stimulating information in developing countries for confronting imperialist information media.

Signs Agreement

JN172049Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May--The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY [INA] and the Soviet news agency TASS signed this evening a comprehensive agreement for cooperation in the field of exchanging news. The agreement was signed for INA by INA Director General Muhammad Manaf Yasin, while Sergey Losev, TASS acting director general, signed for TASS.

During the signing ceremony, cordial words were exchanged between Yasin and Losev. [words indistinct] cooperative relations between the two agencies in the interests of the issue of the just Arab struggle and liberation issues in the world.

The agreement (?provides) for the opening of regional offices for INA and TASS in Moscow and Baghdad. The agreement addenda provide for the installation of telecommunications between the centers of the two agencies [words indistinct] exchange news in Arabic and English.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad, Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Barkovskiy, and several officials of the two agencies.

AL-JUMHURIYAH COMMENTS ON U.S. AIRCRAFT DEAL

JN180834Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 18 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad 18 May--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has called for vigilance regarding the more dangerous aspects of the recent U.S. aircraft deal to the Middle East, namely, the strategic use of these planes.

The paper says that what is significant about the deal is that all of the aircraft will be given to pro-American regimes. The paper explains that regardless of the type of aircraft, all these regimes will use them in the manner that serves the U.S. strategy in the area and when the United States wishes them to be used. In this connection the paper recalls statements made by leaders of the Arab regimes included in the deal. A certain Arab regime announced frankly that "it will no longer go to war" with the enemy and that it needs these planes not to liberate its own land from the Zionist occupation forces, but to confront the wave of liberation which has begun to sweep the African Continent. This regime did this last year when it interfered in the Shaba region in the interests of the agent regime of Mobutu.

The paper says that the other Arab regime included in the planes deal takes every opportunity to confirm its pledge not to use the American planes against the Zionist entity.

The paper discusses the difference in the quality of the planes given to the Zionist entity, on the one hand, and the Arab regimes, on the other. It says that the United States does not view all its allies in the area as equals, but "treats everyone according to his size and position in the scheme of things as well as the nature of the role drawn up for them in advance. Furthermore, the U.S. link with the Zionist entity is a fateful and permanent link and has dimensions which go beyond the borders of the Arab area. Meanwhile, the United States views the pro-American Arab regimes as mere satellites serving its influence in the area."

The paper says that the clamor raised in the U.S. Congress over the aircraft deal and the claim that it will affect the security of the Zionist entity are a transparent attempt to justify increasing Tel Avis's share of these planes, on the one hand, and to cover up the fact that all these planes will be sent to real U.S. allies, on the other.

The paper points out that certain suspect media took advantage of the debate that revolved around the planes deal to make propaganda in favor of the Carter administration. The paper adds that these suspect media reached the point of describing the congressional approval of the deal as a "victory for the Arabs and a bitter setback for Israel," thereby trying to suggest that the approval of the deal indicates a change in the Americans' position toward the Arabs.

Concluding its commentary, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that all these planes will only be used to strike at the positions of the Arab liberation movement and to protect the U.S. imperialist influence in this area which is strategic and sensitive because of its location, resources, and critical events.

ARAB HOUSING, RECONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE BEGINS

JN171008Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May--The third meeting of the five-state committee of the second conference of the Arab housing and reconstruction ministers began here today under the chairmanship of Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and Iraqi minister of housing and reconstruction. The committee is made up of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Egypt, the UAE and Iraq. The committee will discuss the implementation of the recommendations and resulutions adopted in its meeting in Baghdad last year as well as the preparation of the agenda for the third conference of Arab housing ministers scheduled for Tunis next month.

In his speech opening the meeting, Ramadan expressed the hope that the committee will contribute to "advancing cooperation among the Arab states in the field of housing." He added that the proper road to cooperation among the Arab states is one enabling every Arab state to cope with its housing problems through joint programs and joint resources.

FRG ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES ON 3-DAY VISIT

JN161940Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1849 GMT 16 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May--An FRG economic delegation led by Dr (Heuder), under secretary of the FRG Ministry of Economics, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a 3-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, the delegation will hold discussions with various officials for the purpose of strengthening economic relations between the two countries.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES LETTER FROM CHADIAN LEADER

JN151201Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1118 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has received a letter to be delivered to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr from Chairman of the Chadian Supreme Military Council Felix Malloum. The letter deals with bilateral relations between the two countries. The letter was delivered to Dr Hammadi by Chadian Charge d'Affaires in Baghdad Salim 'Abd ar-Rahman Taha when Dr Hammadi received him here this afternoon.

BRIEFS

DELEGATION TO BERLIN--Baghdad, 12 May--Muhammad Dabdab, chairman of the Executive Bureau of the National Federation of Iraqi Students, left this afternoon for Berlin at the head of a student delegation to attend the joint conference of the federation's branches in the states of Western and Eastern Europe. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 12 May 78 JN]

KING HUSAYN VIEWS MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

LD170930Y London BBC Domestic Television Service in English 1830 GMT 16 May 78 LD

[Interview granted by Jordan's King Husayn to reporter Richard Kershaw in Amman, and carried on the "Newsday" program--recorded; date of interview not given]

[Text] [Question] Your Majesty, all the optimism that was raised in the world by the As-Sadat initiative seems to have been deflated. Do you think the impetus of that initiative has now run out?

[Answer] If it has not run out totally, I believe it is very close to that point. As far as optimism was concerned, I believe it was out of context with realities. The problem still remains a very formidable one, and obviously it is the Israeli position that has made it so.

[Question] Were you ever hopeful that this bilateral attempt by President as-Sadat with Israel to start reaching some sort of agreement could be successful, or were you opposed to it from the start?

[Answer] I was not opposed to it; I did not know about it. I was as surprised when the visit was announced and the timing--the context--as any in the world. I believe it has had a good purpose at least. The world knows now that the Arabs are genuinely interested in the establishment of a just and durable peace. But I would have thought that maybe attempts would have been made to try to know what the possibilities were of success. In any event, the gesture was made and sadly, until now, we have not seen any real progress towards peace.

[Question] Would you agree that President as-Sadat took an enormous risk, even a gamble?

[Answer] I think he did take an enormous risk and a gamble. I have described his initiative as a very courageous one.

[Question] Were you at any time thinking of joining in, at any point thinking of perhaps going to the Cairo conference in any capacity whatsoever--or your representatives?

[Answer] No, not to Cairo, unless obviously all the other parties concerned were represented. But this does not mean that our position is negative regarding any process that would lead to peace. Since 1967 we have been ready--in our acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242. The question we have asked time and again was, was Israel ready to withdraw from all territories occupied in June of '67, against the establishment of peace. If that were the case, we were always ready to play our part and contribute our share for the establishment of peace. The answer was always negative.

[Question] It is a question of territory or peace?

[Answer] It is, it has always been.

[Question] Were you not under strong pressure from the United States, and also from your European friends, to join in?

[Answer] No. In any event, what happened was that President as-Sadat felt that he could probably arrive at an understanding.

[Question] A declaration of principles?

[Answer] A declaration of principles--more than that. What was needed, and is needed, is not rewriting Security Council Resolution 242 after almost 11 years, but to know exactly what the end of the road is going to be like, and at such a point President as-Sadat had thought that he would probably call the Arab heads of states and tell them this is what is possible. Now everyone does whatever he thinks is right in terms of interests of people in the area and peace. This never happened.

[Question] Now President as-Sadat got in those negotiations most, in some sense, of what he wanted--purely nationally in terms of territory, the return of all Sinai--but he did not get satisfaction or even the declaration of principles you've mentioned on the other issues: Palestine's future, West Bank, etc. He has now proposed in the last few days, in an interview, that one solution--perhaps for 5 years--could be the return of Gaza, temporarily, to Egyptian sovereignty and the return of the West Bank to Jordanian sovereignty. And he added in this interview that he did not know how you, King Husayn, would respond to that.

[Answer] I don't know that our position would change. What we are after is the recovery of all territories lost in June of '67, the right of self-determination, as far as the people of Palestine are concerned, under conditions of total freedom. There has been enough of a question mark regarding our motives and our intentions pertaining to Palestinian territory and Palestinian rights. We are in support of those rights--of the people of Palestine on Palestinian soil. When you narrow it down, I don't think that the main issue is anything but Israeli withdrawal from all these territories, which would enable the process of giving the Palestinians the right of self-determination to begin.

[Question] There is the question of withdrawal from Arab land, but there is still the question of how to deal with the status--whether in a permanent way or an interim status. Are you committed to a return of the West Bank to your sovereignty under 242, as you've mentioned in a return to '67 borders, or are you prepared still to consider other alternatives: a separate Palestine state linking West Bank and Gaza?

[Answer] Even before the Rabat summit our position was clear or made clear to many who sought to understand it, and that was that if this territory were to be returned--and it must be, obviously, and we are morally responsible for it--it should not be returned to us. It should be placed under international auspices, and the people of Palestine must exercise their right of self-determination.

[Question] But if, as a temporary measure, the best that could be achieved was that it returned temporarily to Jordanian sovereignty, would you accept that responsibility?

[Answer] I wonder. Obviously, we will have to be in touch with our Arab brethren everywhere, and I wonder whether their attitude--if that were the only alternative--would be a negative one to such an idea. I really cannot tell.

[Question] Now may I raise the defense issue--the security issue. The Israelis are obsessive about their defense ability--and sometimes with cause. If--and it is a big if--there were an agreed settlement, how far would you be prepared to go, or advocate, in providing reassurances to the Israeli fears on the West Bank. Does demilitarization of the West Bank seem a negotiable subject?

[Answer] Whatever principle is applied must take into consideration that we need reassurance ourselves, and the element of reciprocity must come into any arrangement, no matter what it is. And watching the growth of Israel from 1947--with partition plans--through '48, '56, '67, and now southern Lebanon, I think we need more assurance than the Israelis themselves, but wherever possible, obviously, with the element of reciprocity brought into arrangements to insure that both sides feel safe regarding their future after the establishment of peace on a just and permanent basis--this would be the way to go.

[Question] But reciprocity, sir, would therefore rule out any of the different current Israeli suggestions that there must be some form of Israeli military presence still on the West Bank even after a peace settlement.

[Answer] I can't see how an Israeli military presence could be accepted there unless, in return, some Arab presence were acceptable to the Israelis on their territories.

[Question] Can I raise the other issue of West Bank import, which is the one of settlements? Are you prepared--and I am not discussing their status within Judaea and Samaria as Mr Begin might say--but are you prepared to see any Israeli settlements remaining on the West Bank after a settlement?

[Answer] I can't see that as part of a settlement. In a context of peace, there may be freedom of movement--there would be a totally different condition to that which has existed over the last many years since the problem first began--but as a right within a settlement, which resulted from occupation, I doubt whether it is really feasible to accept any such arrangement.

[Question] Your Majesty, the view you give is gloomy about the possibilities of the current talks getting anywhere. What does happen now in your view, what is the next procedure that can get us away from this deflation, as I said, of the current attempts?

[Answer] Well, for one thing I believe that it is important to arrive at the right conclusions, and probably within a short space of time this will occur. But then this area is very important to the world as a whole. The dangers within it threaten the world and world peace. The world has a responsibility and a moral obligation to do whatever is possible to help all concerned in the area move toward the establishment of peace. We on the Arab side must pull ourselves together and organize ourselves in such a way. If the missing ingredient is Arab strength--not on the military side, but in terms of cohesion and unity and clarity of vision--then this must come about. This may bring us closer to peace when Israel assumes her proper size within the area and does not feel that she is so superior militarily and in every other respect that she could take peace or leave it at this state. All these are important factors, and I believe it is important to bring the matter once again to the attention of the world, and possibly the superpowers as such should be involved jointly in helping to find a solution.

[Question] Has the Israeli move into south Lebanon altered anything?

[Answer] It has certainly distressed us immensely because southern Lebanon, to our way of thinking, has always been an Israeli target regardless of the reason or the pretext for this particular action--the headwaters of the River Jordan, the Litani. And I have personally warned the Arab heads of state time and again--at every summit I attended during all the last years that I was in a position of responsibility, in my meetings with them--to see if there was a way either of strengthening Lebanon or finding a formula to leave Lebanon outside the military confrontation with Israel. And after all these years to see southern Lebanon under occupation is a very distressing development.

[Question] The occasion for it of course--I was actually in your capital here when it happened--was the Fatah attack on the bus outside Tel Aviv a few weeks ago, and that provided an occasion for the move into south Lebanon. What do you condemn, the sort of attack that was made by Fatah at that time in itself, as well as because of the trouble it caused afterwards?

[Answer] I have always made it very clear that in principle we condemn any action that takes civilian lives, innocent lives, and threatens them in any form or way. But on the other hand, I really am distressed that people are not looking for the cause that would drive people to despair, to the point where they hit back with anything that is available to them. After all, the Palestinians as such have been denied every right over so many years, and this is emphasized time and again in the present days. Under such conditions, can one really blame them if they feel that they should strike back somehow. Why should there be a difference between Mr Begin, for example, in terms of history, and the people in Europe in the Second World War, and some in this area. I do not approve of actions that affect innocent people at all, and I have always condemned such actions very openly.

[Question] The Middle East issue, the current one, is often talked about in the West as if the settlement in question is between Israel and Egypt and about Jordan and the West Bank only, but you, of course, live here and among other Arab neighbors who are also involved. It is my impression, and is it correct that you have in recent times got a lot closer to Syria and President Asad?

[Answer] We have had very close contacts and the beginning of some genuine cooperation between our two countries...

[Question] And you approved of their role in the Lebanon?

[Answer] Yes. Yes. Yes, I did.

[Question] Finally, Sir, are you disappointed in the way the West--and primarily I must mean the United States by this--has behaved in this critical period we've been going through?

[Answer] I would not try to say whether I am angry at our friends in the United States or angry for them. I really hope that they will be able to exercise the kind of strength that is needed not only in the interest of the Arabs but in the interest of the Israelis as well, in the interest of the world, at such a crucial time.

[Question] There is a danger--as the shah of Persia whom I interviewed a few weeks ago put it on this program--that stable and moderate states like yours and some in the gulf will face increasing radical pressure if a settlement is not reached soon. Is that a danger you fear?

[Answer] I believe it is a danger in the entire area. If people are driven to despair, then there is disillusionment with their leaders and the kind of leadership that exists in the entire area. I do not care to say that this is something that worries me here in Jordan. I have known my people, they know me and they know exactly what difficulties we face within the Arab world itself. But there is danger in my opinion to the very Arab nation as such if it does not pull itself together, if there is no progress towards the establishment of a just and durable peace. There must be an alternative and we are trying to present it to Arab leaders and people alike of coming closer together, of pooling our resources. After all, it is an important part of the world, and we have material resources, human resources and we should apply them to the best interests of the Arab nation as such.

[Kershaw] Thank you, Your Majesty, for coming to this studio in Amman.

[King Husayn] It is a pleasure.

FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES ON VISIT TO LIBYA

JN171837Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] An official Jordanian delegation headed by Finance Minister Muhammad ad-Dabbas left Amman for the Libyan Jamahiriyah today on an official visit at the invitation of the Libyan treasury secretary. Ad-Dabbas said that the visit aims at acquainting the Libyan officials with Jordanian development projects and explaining the positive aspects and necessity of these projects to Jordanian development in order to give the Libyan Jamahiriyah the opportunity to contribute to these projects.

Ad-Dabbas added that the delegation will hold talks with Libyan officials on the possibility of establishing joint projects between the two countries.

NCC PRESIDENT RECEIVES SYRIAN AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN

JN170710Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 17 May 78 p 16 JN

[Text] Amman--Ahmad al-Lawzi, president of the National Consultative Council, and 'Abd al-Karim as-Sabbagh, Syrian ambassador in Amman, have discussed the strong fraternal relations between the two countries and the possibilities of cooperation between the National Consultative Council and the Syrian People's Assembly.

JORDANIAN, SYRIAN SECURITY CHIEFS DISCUSS COOPERATION

JN151109Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 15 May--Syrian Interior Minister Brig Gen 'Adnan Dabbagh yesterday received Maj Gen Ghazi 'Arabiyat, Jordanian public security director, who is currently in Damascus at the head of the Jordanian delegation to the Sixth Conference of Arab Police Chiefs.

In a statement to the JNA correspondent in Damascus following the meeting, Major General 'Arabiyat said that they discussed aspects of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the police field as well as coordination between the Syrian and Jordanian public security organs.

During the meeting, Major General 'Arabiyat affirmed Jordan's preparedness to render all assistance in the public security field in implementing Jordan's policy, drawn up by His Majesty King Husayn, to put Jordanian expertise in various fields at the disposal of the fraternal Arab countries.

Major General 'Arabiyat added that the training centers and police institutes and colleges in Jordan are ready to receive numerous students from the sons of the Arab nation and to train them in accordance with the most modern methods.

Brigadier General Dabbagh lauded Jordan's aid to the Syrian Arab Republic in the training of policewomen at the Policewomen's Training School in Amman. The Syrian minister invited Major General 'Arabiyat to visit the various public security institutes in the Syrian Arab Republic. 'Arabiyat accepted the invitation, and the date of the visit will be fixed later.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS EXPLAINS CABINET CIRCUMSTANCES

NC170800Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 May 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister al-Huss was asked to give his opinion of yesterday's statements by certain politicians to the effect that the cabinet's withdrawal of its resignation was tantamount to rectifying a mistake and that the resignation produced unexpected results. Prime Minister al-Huss said: I disagree. I do not consider the cabinet's withdrawal of its resignation to be a rectification of a mistake. The resignation was a necessary political decision at the time, and the withdrawal of the resignation was another political decision which we consider to be more suited to the circumstances under which it was taken. A decision can only be judged in the light of the circumstances under which it is taken.

He added: By resigning we hoped to achieve two things. The first was to give the politicians the chance to assume government responsibility, and the second was to activate the political situation and break the circle of inaction which had begun to surround the government's work. Under the circumstances which prevailed in the political and security spheres at the time, the government was unable to move productively in dealing with vital national issues.

As for the results of the resignation, I can say that, despite the fact that the cabinet's resignation gave the politicians the opportunity to assume government responsibility, and despite the fact that we worked hard--and God is our witness--for the formation of a coalition cabinet of politicians, the attitudes of certain politicians and the conditions and counterconditions made by them created complications, problems and obstacles in the way of forming a new cabinet. This prevented the results we had hoped for, namely, the formation of a coalition cabinet representing all political trends. We were not the source of the complications and obstacles.

Furthermore, the resignation was effective as a way to get things moving. To dispel any doubt on this point I would say that if we were to draw a map of the political situation as it was on the eve of the resignation and another map of the political situation today, the great difference would be apparent. We must remember what has happened in the political arena since the resignation if we are to assess the resignation's important effects and results. Just as the resignation was necessary at the time it was submitted, the withdrawal of the resignation was an unavoidable step under the present circumstances.

Meets With President Sarkis

NC171206Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 May 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis met with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at 1145 today. Emerging from the meeting at 1240, Prime Minister al-Huss said: It was a routine meeting which dealt with the general situation and the government's action plan for the coming stage. The meeting also dealt with the affairs of certain ministries.

Asked whether the cabinet will meet this week, Prime Minister al-Huss said: No, the cabinet will meet Wednesday.

Asked if he will call for a meeting of the Chamber of Deputies in order to present the government's action plan for the coming stage, Prime Minister al-Huss said: No, that is not necessary. The government is carrying out its tasks. As a matter of fact, there is no such thing as the previous government and the present government. The government has withdrawn its resignation and is in a position of continuity.

Asked about persistent reports over the past 2 days to the effect that Lebanese officials will pay visits to Damascus, Prime Minister al-Huss said: Contacts are underway to prepare for visits by Lebanese officials to Damascus.

Asked if he is the one who is going to visit Damascus, Prime Minister al-Huss said: That has not yet been decided. However, it is possible that some such visit will take place during this month.

Asked about the south in the light of security developments and current circumstances, Prime Minister al-Huss replied: We are doing all we can to maintain stability in the south and to facilitate the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426, to which we fully adhere.

AL-HUSS RECEIVES PLO LEADER 'ARAFAT

NC171814Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 May 78 NC

[Text] This evening Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received a Palestinian delegation consisting of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; the PLO's permanent representative to the United Nations, Basil 'Aql; Salah Khalaf and Abu al-Walid.

RIGHTIST FORCES COMMANDER LEAVES FOR WASHINGTON

NC171156Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 17 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Lebanese forces commander Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil left Beirut this morning for Washington via Paris to attend the general conference of the Lebanese-American League scheduled to be held Saturday.

DEMONSTRATORS CALL FOR RETURN OF AUTHORITY TO SOUTH

NC171556Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 May 78 NC

[Text] Hundreds of people demonstrated in the towns of As-Siddiqin and Qana today. The demonstrators proceeded to the gendarme post in Qana, where they informed the official in charge of their demands and asked him to pass these demands to the authorities.

These demands are the complete return of the legal authorities to the south, the strengthening of the internal security forces in the area, accelerating the dispatch of the Lebanese Army to the south, strengthening the UN checkpoints, supplying the UN forces with the necessary weapons and consolidating national unity.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS PALESTINIAN ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH

NC172043Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 17 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] The Voice of Lebanon radio has learned that 20 armed Palestinians infiltrated from Mount Hermon and surrounded the Norwegian forces deployed in the south. They asked the Norwegian forces to withdraw from their positions, but the Norwegians refused to do so. As a result of this, the security situation in the border area between the Norwegian forces and the armed Palestinians became tense.

The liaison committees, in coordination with the UN forces command, hastened to contain the incident but have not been able to reach any decisive results. Moreover, the UN forces have come under Palestinian artillery fire in Kwakaba and in the outskirts of Tyre.

Clash With French Troops

NC180643Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 18 May 78 NC

[Text] Armed aliens and Palestinian rejectionists and communists continue to provoke the UN forces, especially the French troops, to get them out of Tyre and regain control of Tyre harbor so they can receive arms and sabotage experts of every nationality and color. Demonstrations were staged yesterday in a large number of southern villages calling for an end to Palestinian terrorism and provocation.

Meanwhile, an officer in the French contingent in the south has stated that French forces clashed with armed elements in Al-Wardaniyah area, between the towns of Qana and Ramadiyah southeast of Tyre. He added that one armed man was wounded in the hand and three others were detained.

ISRAELI BOAT REPORTEDLY SEIZES SHIP

NC180644Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 18 May 78 NC

[Text] Tuesday afternoon an Israeli boat stopped a ship which was approaching Tyre. Three soldiers went aboard and searched the ship for 1 hour. They then ordered the ship to follow their boat to Israel. The ship's captain did what he was told. The fate of the ship was still unknown last night.

ZANU DELEGATION MEETS WITH BA'TH PARTY LEADER

JN172057Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] At 1300 today Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, received the delegation of the Zimbabwe African National Union, [ZANU] headed by Robert Mugabe. The meeting was attended by Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, Ba'th Party National Command member and chairman of the foreign relations office.

Having welcomed the head and members of the ZANU delegation, Comrade Al-Ahmar listened to a report on the latest developments of the Zimbabwe people's struggle against Smith's racist regime, with the aim of achieving liberty and independence under majority rule and defeating the racist regime.

Mugabe stressed that his people sympathize with the Arab people's struggle against the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation. He stressed that he feels that the Zimbabwe people and the Arab nation are waging a common struggle against racism, Zionism and imperialism in the Arab area and in South Africa. He thanked Syria and its party, its people and leader for their stand in support of the Zimbabwe people's struggle for liberation from racism and imperialism.

Comrade Al-Ahmar stressed to Mugabe that their struggle is the same against all [word indistinct] and racism. He reasserted Syria's firm and principled stance in support of the Zimbabwe people's just struggle for freedom and independence. He also stressed that the Ba'th Party under the leadership of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic, and the Arab people will continue the struggle against Zionist and imperialist plots in order to liberate all occupied territory and to (?restore) the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and to support those struggling for freedom and independence in the various parts of the world.

PNC Chairman

JN172144Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Chairman of the Palestine National Council Khalid al-Fahum received in his office this evening the delegation of the Zimbabwe African National Union [ZANU], led by Robert Mugabe, which is currently visiting Syria at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command. During the meeting Al-Fahum reviewed for the guest delegation the latest developments in the situation at the Palestinian, Arab and international levels. Al-Fahum expressed the Palestinian revolution's absolute support for the national liberation movement in Zimbabwe against Ian Smith's regime.

Mugabe then explained the situation in Zimbabwe and agent Ian Smith regime's continued plots to usurp the Zimbabwe people's right to independence, national sovereignty and self-determination. Mugabe also spoke on suspect imperialist plans aimed at the continued control of the Zimbabwe people by various methods. He explained the special relationship between the racist Zionist entity and the racist regime in South Africa.

At the end of the meeting, Mugabe reasserted the support of his party and the national front and the Zimbabwe people for the just struggle of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, determine their future and establish an independent state on their land. He also stressed the inevitability of victory for the Palestinian and African revolutionaries over the imperialist, Zionist and racist forces.

ALGERIA

BOUTEFLIKA REACTS TO CHARGES OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN ZAIRE

LD170050Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 May 78 LD

[Text] Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister, has sent a message to Eteki Mboumoua, OAU secretary general, on the allegations made by some French papers quoting the Zaire news agency of accusing some foreign countries of being involved in the events in Shaba. Here is the text of the message:

Some French information media have circulated an allegation by the Zaire news agency of involvement by some African and other countries in the events in Shaba, Zaire. While reminding you of our adherence to the principles of the OAU regarding the unity of peoples, territorial integrity of states and the safety of borders inherited from the colonial era, we can also say that we maintained an effective attitude of solidarity with Nigeria concerning the question of Biafra and offered a tangible contribution to national unity in Zaire during the Katanga events. The present government of Zaire cannot, for well-known reasons, forget that at all.

It is evident today that we are witnessing a real onslaught against this continent, reflected in organized French military intervention accompanied by a blatant and biased campaign of provocation which aims not at Africa for the Africans, but at inciting Africans against one another. The time has come for this new danger to be realized. Everyone must bear full responsibility not only for the African states, but also for the legitimate interests of all the peoples of the continent.

Bouteflika went on to say in his message: On another level, it appears to us that it has become all too easy to camouflage internal problems by crying foreign interference. Interference into another's problems is against our principles. This charge was, in the past, made against non-African states, but now is used against African states themselves.

These unfounded allegations are an effort to find an easy justification for military intervention by former colonial powers in the internal affairs of the African countries.

As much as we emphasize our readiness to help each other within the framework of bilateral cooperation and through the appropriate institutions of the OAU, we declare with equal vigor that we cannot support the policy of false accusations and charges by imperialist forces. Nor can we support the irresponsible policy toward the higher interests of our peoples and our continent.

Therefore, I would like to depend on you to inform the African states of the attitude we have expressed, which will always remain a consistent element of our foreign policy, so that in close cooperation with the Government of Zaire every measure can be taken which is likely to shed every light on the foreign allegations.

The questions of this African country, Bouteflika went on, whether in the north, south, east or west of Zaire, are of concern now or in the future to the fraternal people of Zaire alone. Its development and solutions can only be shouldered by the Government of Zaire.

APS Comment

LD172126Y Algiers APS in French 1400 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Algiers--Has the second Shaba war begun? All the news from Zaire tends to confirm that events of some importance are shaking that African country, and that Shaba is the main setting for these.

The resumption of military operations on a wide front is thus making room for the guerrilla war which for the last 14 months has given opportunities for General Mbumba's partisans to harass Kinshasa's troops; but, thanks to the relative calm that has prevailed, it has also made it possible to reconstitute the main body of the FLNC [Congolese National Liberation Front] forces, which were seriously weakened by the intervention of the Moroccan contingent, backed by logistic aid from the French Air Force. In other words, since the end of May, when the first Shaba war is generally agreed to have ended, a certain degree of military activity has been deployed in that area, and the increased pressure being put on General Mobutu's troops since last Thursday is no more than the culmination of a long period of preparation by the FLNC fighters.

However, notwithstanding the clear fact admitted by the Zairian head of state's closest friends, a fact that underlines the precariousness of the situation in which the Kinshasa regime is floundering--the bankruptcy of its incoherent policy and its powerlessness to contain the ever-growing forces of opposition--General Mobutu can find nothing better to do--as he did during the first Shaba war, without, nonetheless, being able to supply any proof--than accuse foreign elements and capitals of intervening in Zaire's internal affairs.

Thus, General Mobutu indiscreetly says that this second Shaba war, to which he gives the name "Operation Dove," was "devised in Cuba and set in motion in Algeria," not hesitating to accuse the Soviet Union, Angola and Libya of actively participating in putting it into effect.

In fact, this fallacious version of events will deceive no one. It will certainly comfort the backers of interventionism in their positions, which are in fact already defined since they have already taken material form in other parts of the African Continent. Its aim, then, will be to justify the adventure which is being prepared and which will, as it did 14 months ago in this same region of Zaire, consist of repressing a national insurrection and supporting regimes reviled by their own peoples.

Undoubtedly, this new Zairian affair is a case of a strictly internal situation, a problem, therefore, which sets a people against a regime it has rejected, and whose solution must originate with the protagonists. Any other attempt to save a "model" which desperate attempts have been made to defend in the past with arms from outside, will only delay once more the day which will, sooner or later, incontestably ratify the wishes of the Zairians.

LIBYA

PDRY MINISTER ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR AL-QADHDHAFI

LD171134Y Tripoli JANA in English 0850 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 17, JANA--Mr Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, the minister of transport [as received] of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, yesterday arrived in Tripoli International Airport. Mr Nuri al-Fayturi al-Madani, the transport secretary, the undersecretary and representatives from the Arab and cooperation departments of the Foreign Secretariat. [sentence as received]

The Yemeni minister has affirmed that his visit to the Jamahiriyah is within the framework of contacts and the exchange of views between the steadfastness and confrontation front countries.

He praised, in a statement to the correspondent of JANA, the relations that link the Jamahiriyah to democratic Yemen. He said: "They are good and solid relations embodied in the continued confrontation of the reactionary schemes, in the Arab region, aimed at harming the Palestinian revolution."

He added that he was carrying a letter to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, secretary-general of the General People's Congress, from the secretary-general of the United Political Organization--the National Front in Yemen, Mr 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il.

MOROCCO

OSMAN, PORTUGAL'S SOARES ADDRESS BANQUET

LD172156Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Last night Prime Minister Osman gave a dinner party in honor of Portuguese Prime Minister Soares. In his speech at the banquet, Prime Minister Ahmed Osman said: First, I would like to express to you my profound thanks and gratitude for accepting my invitation to you to visit Morocco. I should also like to welcome you anew, hoping that your stay with us will be enjoyable and useful. We, Mr Prime Minister, are overjoyed that you are here with us today, for more than one reason. To the members of his majesty's government and to me personally, this visit provides a good opportunity for exchanging opinions and consulting with an experienced statesman and the head of the government of a neighboring and friendly country; it also enables us to welcome a great leader whose political life is regarded an example to be followed in directness, perseverence and farsightedness.

We can only congratulate ourselves and rejoice at any initiative which is bound to further consolidate the friendly relations that exist between our two countries and two peoples, who are linked by many ties, despite the fact that friction between them in some phases of history took the form of confrontation and rivalry. There is no doubt that personal contacts at various levels contribute to achieving understanding among peoples and rapprochement among states. It is for this reason that we have received with much interest and satisfaction all initiatives which fall within this framework, such as the visit of the Moroccan parliamentary delegation to Lisbon, and the establishment of the Moroccan-Portuguese Friendship Society some weeks ago. I am confident that your visit will contribute to strengthening our relations and consolidating our cooperation. Our talks together, which were crowned by the audience granted to you by his majesty the king, enabled us to observe that there is great similarity in views on bilateral issues and on international issues of common concern, especially those connected with the grave crises which are sweeping through a number of regions in Africa, and the Middle East tragedy.

Morocco, which was the first African and Arab state to establish diplomatic relations with the new democratic Portugal, is determined to give a new start and special (?attention) to cooperation with your country, cooperation which is manifested by the agreements concluded between our two countries in the fields of sea fishing, economic and technical cooperation, trade and tourism. I am confident that the Portuguese Government, which you lead with determination and clarity, is prompted by the same will to strengthen its relations with Morocco, especially as our country--as you yourself stated some days ago, is, together with Spain, regarded as close to Portugal. It is situated in the Atlantic Ocean region, where the archipelagos of Madeira and the Azores are situated.

Therefore, with a heart full of confidence and optimism for the future of relations between Portugal and Morocco, I invite you, your highnesses, your excellencies, gentlemen, to stand up with me in honor of Mr Mario Soares and Moroccan-Portuguese friendship. Peace be with you.

In his reply, Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares said that he is moved by the feelings of friendship he has felt during his visit to Morocco. Moroccan-Portuguese relations, he pointed out, developed deep roots a long time ago. By virtue of neighborliness, the Portuguese and Moroccan peoples established bilateral relations which greatly influenced the culture and civilization of both countries. The moments of confrontation, which history has recorded, now belong to the past. Now, there exist all favorable circumstances for deepening the ancient relations and consolidating the ties of friendship and neighborliness between Morocco and Portugal.

Mr Soares added that at this time in particular he wants to stress the Portuguese Government's desire to promote cooperation with Morocco at all levels, explaining that there is in this respect an agreement between the two countries, which constitutes the legal framework which must be given a tangible (?prospect) in order to promote joint cooperation. Mr Soares said that in the course of his visit he conducted important talks with His Majesty King Hassan II and with the prime minister; these talks will act as an important step toward establishing a strong relationship, which will be followed in the first stage by a visit to Portugal by the Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation. Prime Minister Ahmed Osman has also promised to pay a visit to Portugal.

Soares Departs

LD171512Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Summary] Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares concluded his visit to Morocco and left this morning. In a statement at the airport he expressed full satisfaction with his visit, in particular with his audience with his majesty the king, who showed complete understanding of all issues raised. He also expressed satisfaction with his talks with Prime Minister Osman and other officials.

SUDAN

SUDANESE-ETHIOPIAN MEDIATION COMMITTEE POSTPONES MEETING

JN171323Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 17 May--It has been decided to postpone the meeting of the mediation committee between Sudan and Ethiopia which was scheduled to be held on 20 May, upon Sudan's request, so that the two sides will have time to set the agenda and review a suitable concept for the meeting in light of the Freetown agreement.

A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has stated that the Sudanese and Ethiopian foreign ministers are expected to meet with the Sudanese minister of state for Foreign Affairs and the Sierra Leone foreign minister, the chairman of the mediation committee, to discuss procedural matters before setting a new date for the meetings of the joint committee.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR CONSULTATIONS IN CHAD

LD171544Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 May 78 LD/EA

[Summary] 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, first vice president of Sudan and chairman of the military commission for the cease-fire in Chad, left Khartoum today for Ndjamena on a short visit, during which he will have talks with President Malloum. The visit comes within the framework of Sudan's efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Chad. He is expected back in Khartoum tonight.

Meets With Malloum, Returns

LD172015Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 May 78 LD/EA

[Text] Mr 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, first vice president of the republic, Sudanese Socialist Union secretary general and chairman of the military commission for the cease-fire in Chad, has concluded his brief visit to Ndjamena, the capital of Chad, which he began this morning. His excellency left Ndjamena at 1600 for Khartoum, after meeting the Chadian president, Felix Malloum. He also held another meeting with the military commission for the cease-fire, attended by representatives from Sudan, Libya and [word indistinct].

During his meeting with President Malloum, Mr 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim briefed him on Sudan's proposals on continued efforts to bring about national reconciliation in Chad. The Chadian president accepted all the proposals presented to him. It was also decided that the military committees will move to their positions to carry out their tasks.

INDUSTRY MINISTER RECEIVES GUINEA-BISSAU OFFICIAL

JN142201Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1625 GMT 14 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 14 May--The minister of industry, energy and hydrology of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau has praised the methods of regulating agricultural industrialization in Sudan, the results of which, he stated, will be reflected in Africa.

During his meeting today with the visiting minister, Dr Bashir 'Abbadi, minister of industry, expressed Sudan's readiness to provide Guinea-Bissau with all possible assistance, particularly well-trained Sudanese cadres in the sugar industry. Sudan is also willing to accept a number of trainees from Guinea-Bissau for study at the Sudanese institute for sugar industry specialists. At the end of the meeting, the visiting minister conveyed to 'Abbadi the greetings of the president of Guinea-Bissau to President Numayri. The Guinea-Bissau minister arrived in Khartoum day before yesterday for talks with officials of the Arab Bank aimed at financing a number of projects in Guinea-Bissau.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA MEETS WITH USSR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

LD171706Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] At 1000 today, Prime Minister Hedi Nouira received at Government House [name indistinct], head of the African Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

CUBA SUPPLYING AID, TRAINING TO PALESTINIANS

TA172055Y Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 May 78 TA

[Text] Cuba has agreed to increase the aid it is giving the terrorists, but it appears that it will not send military instructors to Lebanon. Western sources said this to our correspondent on Arab affairs, Ehud Ya'ari. According to them, a small number of Palestinian pilots are now being trained in Cuba and officers from Cuba are taking part in training terrorists in bases in south Libya. It is estimated that today there is a total of 1,500 Cuban soldiers throughout the Middle East divided between Iraq, Syria, South Yemen, Algeria and Libya. The day before yesterday the United States warned that it would regard with gravity the appearance of Cubans in Lebanon.

U.S. ARMS DEAL REMAINS TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

Knesset Debate

TA171256Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 May 78 TA

[Text] A short while ago the Knesset ended discussion of the urgent motion to the agenda submitted by Alinement MK Moshe Shahal about the arms deal to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Begin answered in the name of the government and the issue was finally transferred to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Our correspondent in the Knesset, Razi Barqa'i, sums up the debate: [begin recording]

Today is 17 May. The Likud is a year old and the Alinement is taking advantage of the opportunity to attack the government for what it defines as a stuttering, faltering foreign policy. MK Shahal says that the government has failed in the struggle over U.S. public opinion and for the first time As-Sadat enjoys greater popularity than the Israeli prime minister. Moshe Shahal added that the government is responsible for what has happened in Washington. Even President Carter has said he never heard from Prime Minister Begin, when they met in the United States, that Israel objected to the aircraft deal.

[Shahal] Confirmation has come from the prime minister himself who admitted that he did not raise this question in his talks with the U.S. President. The prime minister, who is known to advocate uprightness and who explains Israel's positions; the prime minister, who has often chastised us saying that all that needed to be done in order to improve Israel's status in the United States and the world was to explain Israel's positions; this prime minister confesses that he did not raise the issue of arms supply in his talks with President Carter.

[Barqa'i] MK Shahal did not forget this symbolic day and called for a change of government from the Knesset podium.

[Shahal] At this time the people need a government with a realistic and consolidated policy. The people now need an unquestioned leadership which is confident about its way and enjoys the people's trust; a government which can be trusted to be able to guarantee the people's security and exhaust all chances for peace.

[Barqa'i] The prime minister, in a moderate speech, avoiding a debate or argument with Shahal, said in his answer that it was not the first time that the supply of aircraft to Israel had been linked to the supply of aircraft to Arab countries. Begin said that he is in possession of the facts and will give them to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

[Begin] I am saying this not in order to underrate or minimize the gravity of the recent event; I have said this several times already. A grave thing indeed has happened but it is wrong to claim that this is the first time that this has happened.

[Alinement MK Hayyim Bar-Lev] Sir, Mr Prime Minister, if I may, the arms supplied by the United States to Saudi Arabia and Jordan in the past have never been the most modern arms produced by U.S. technology. In contrast, the aircraft in question now are the most modern the United States has. I suggest that things not be blurred.

[Begin] I am not blurring anything. I am stating the facts as I have examined them, period by period. These were modern and new arms and this is what happened. However, in those days, your government not only did not prevent the supply and the linking, but this issue was not made public. This is the difference. We are not denying the gravity of the matter.

[Barqa'i] Mr Begin expressed his reservation about the U.S. step, stating that the government will hold a discussion on the matter and will decide on the measures called for. At the end of his remarks, Begin said a few words about the Alinement and its renewed hopes for government. The prime minister said that he also knows about the statistics and the public opinion polls.

[Begin] Mr Shahal also cited U.S. public opinion polls. I propose not to rely on them. Remember though, there are also public opinion polls in Israel. According to their results, the majority continues to support the government established by the public a year ago. We hope to continue the efforts that we have made so far in all spheres, in the political, economic and moral spheres, since this task was imposed by the electorate on this government.

[Unidentified MK] Sir, Prime Minister, this is no reason for not levelling criticism at the government.

[Barqa'i] The Hadash faction requested that the issue be removed from the agenda, saying that both the Alinement and the Likud are U.S. satellites. However, with a majority of votes and the government's agreement, the issue is transferred to the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee for discussion. [end recording]

Cabinet Blamed, Defended

TA1717l5Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] In Jerusalem today more reaction was heard to the aircraft deal and also accusations that the cabinet erred in its treatment of the issue. Our political correspondent, Yosi La'or, reviews this and looks forward to the continuation of the political negotiations:

On the issue of the aircraft, the capital is reacting today to the accusations against the cabinet. It is true, governmental circles are saying, that Israel did not use all its strength on the issue. Had a vigorous Israeli attempt led to the President's defeat, our victory would have been a Pyrrhic one and it would have seriously harmed the relations between the two countries against the background of the political negotiations. However, they add in the capital, the prime minister made every effort to warn the world of the security danger growing from the triangle deal. Mr Begin explained this issue to President Carter in one of their last talks, an explanation which was accompanied with illustrations on the map of the Middle East.

There are also those who are explaining that mistakes made by the previous cabinet permitted the U.S. administration, to a certain extent, to put the triangular deal into effect. In September 1975 President Ford sent a letter authorizing Israel to order F-16's, but the then defense minister, Shim'on Peres, held up the order because he wanted some of the aircraft components to be produced in Israel. The then prime minister, Yizhaq Rabin, gave way to Peres' approach and so, in March 1977, the U.S. secretary of defense told Rabin that the postponement of the order would cause a great delay in supplies to Israel because of a large contract signed with the NATO countries. Thus, they are saying today, the previous cabinet missed closing the deal and made it easier for President Carter to tie up the supply of aircraft to Israel with supplies of weapons to the Arab countries.

A second issue which will apparently be discussed, at least partly, by the cabinet, is the political negotiations. Will Israel reply to the U.S. questions? As far as can be seen, no. The reason is not a desire to react to the aircraft deal by holding up the negotiations, but a more substantive reason. The Americans told Israel that they were expecting the presentation of an Egyptian counterproposal. In spite of this, to date the Egyptian proposals have not been received. With this, circles in the capital are saying it is worth waiting to give Israel's detailed replies. On the other hand, U.S. sources have said that Egypt will enter into negotiations only when positive Israeli replies are received to the U.S. questions. This issue--what will precede what, Israeli replies or Egyptian proposals--will, as far as can be seen, be discussed in the contacts the United States is holding in Cairo and Jerusalem and also in the ministerial consultations preparatory to the cabinet session.

Begin TV Interview

TA172043Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 May 78 TA

[Text] This evening a year ago exactly, at 2300 to be precise, we announced from these studios what was later referred to and known by the name of turnover, the Likud's rise to power. In an interview with Mabat to mark a year of the turnover, the prime minister says that the affair of the triangular aircraft deal does not represent a basic change in the relations between Israel and the United States. The prime minister regards the affair as a serious misfortune and a grave event, but, according to him, it should not be seen as a crisis in the relations between the two countries. Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram speaks with the prime minister: [begin videotape]

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, the negotiations with Egypt stood at the center of the events of the first year of the turnover. What is the situation of these negotiations today?

[Answer] Your evaluation is correct. Since we made up the cabinet on the basis of the democratic decision of the public a year ago, we have persisted in attempts to open negotiations for peace. In order to achieve this we took various initiatives. I went to the United States last July, and later at the first opportunity I invited the President of Egypt, As-Sadat, to come to Jerusalem and his visit took place. We had very good talks in Jerusalem. The cabinet then prepared a detailed peace program, a program which the Knesset authorized by a large majority. We took the program to the talks in Ismailia with President as-Sadat. The conclusion was that we, both of us, or all of us, know that we have differences of opinion about the substance of the agreement, but we will hold negotiations.

What happened is that, at the height of conducting negotiations in Jerusalem in the Political Committee they were stopped by President as-Sadat. Since then, of course, difficulties have been created. However, the talks were not totally stopped. There were also direct talks by our defense minister, in Egypt, as you know. There were indirect talks with the aid of representatives of the United States. The efforts continue.

The major difficulty is that, since we held those contacts, the direct and indirect ones, the Government of Egypt put two demands to us on issues that we have said from the beginning that we do not, cannot accept them. These are a total withdrawal to the lines of 4 June 1967 and what they call self-determination, that is, the founding of a Palestinian state. These demands have recently been repeated over and over again. We say this is not negotiation. We presented a peace program. If there is another peace program, present it and then we will hold negotiations on both programs. To dictate conditions to us for a settlement is impossible now and will be impossible in the future. This is the difficulty. But I want to tell you that the contacts have not been stopped, not even with the aid of the United States [as heard], and next week in the cabinet we will have to make decisions. It may be that soon we will hear from the Egyptians. We will not cease efforts for negotiations, serious negotiations so that, as a result, we will really come to an agreement that will serve as a basis for a peace treaty.

[Question] Quite coincidentally, as we mark a year since the turnover, it appears that our relations with the United States have reached a crisis. Is this indeed so?

[Answer] What happened with regard to the supply of aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, as I have already said a number of times, is grave. It is impossible to say that this is an end to, or a basic change in, the relations of deep friendship between us and the United States, but it is a misfortune, a serious misfortune, and I have left no doubt of this. Names are not important, we can use this name or another name, but it is a grave event. It must be said that, as is always said when someone bears responsibility and he knows the history of the people, we have had difficulties and I remember from the past very many difficulties with U.S. Governments, but we overcame them and I hope that this time, too, we will overcome them. But this is not something about which it is possible to say yes, such and such a crisis has occurred and we can no longer expect friendly relations with the United States. It is not so. We hope that, to the extent that something grave has happened to us, we will make every possible effort to reduce it to a minimum. We will also overcome this difficulty. That is our belief.

[Question] Does peace today appear to you to be closer than it was more than a year ago?

[Answer] No, it is impossible to make a comparison, because more than a year ago no negotiations for peace had been held and there was no contact with Egypt, neither direct nor indirect, there was no peace program. They spoke, as I remember it, how did they put it, of a plot of land in exchange for a little bit of peace. Well, if they had gone on like that, I don't know what we would have left. There would not have been any negotiations for peace. This year there are serious, basic negotiations. It is true that they have come up against difficulties, but these are also natural. We should not say that everything has come to an end. We must persist. It is impossible to stand and look at the clock and say: Why haven't you signed yet? This is a dispute of dozens of years. A great deal of patience is needed. We have patience and we will persist in the efforts. I want to say that there is hope that the day of peace will come.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, in the first half year of your cabinet, the cabinet worked, I would say, like a very well-oiled machine. Just about a month ago, you said, if I am not mistaken, that there were breakdowns in the cabinet and that these breakdowns had to be repaired. Have the breakdowns been repaired?

[Answer] Both things are correct. At first there was even a lifting of spirits and admiration at the cabinet's method of working and later there were mishaps. I think that to a great extent we have overcome those mishaps. Not completely. Fine, that happens in life, too. I hope that the repairs will continue until the breakdowns disappear. It is a democratic cabinet. It has in it differences of opinion as well, nobody is hiding this. Sometimes they are expressed openly. It is not, one could say, a cabinet made out of one skin, but we have in the cabinet today--I want to stress this--the desire to work together and to understand one another. There is a great deal of good will. Let us hope that, with the aid of that good will we will also overcome these difficulties.

[Question] Permit me to be a little curious: What had to be repaired and what, as you said, still needs repairing?

[Answer] First of all, that phenomenon of making announcements in which the public found certain contradictions must be corrected, and I think that this phenomenon has, to a great extent, been repaired, even though not yet entirely. We will work toward a total repair. I hope there will be a total repair.

[Question] Mr Begin, looking toward the next year, what will, in your view, be the main task facing the Cabinet of Israel?

[Answer] To achieve peace. That is the main task. In the social sphere, to continue to correct injustices, to act toward a solution for depressed housing. We have, of course, a task to advance the economy so that it will become self-supporting, that is, to increase exports so that we can live from our own labor. These are the main tasks facing us and we will do our best to achieve them, to fulfill them.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, in the political sphere you mentioned the advancement of peace. Would you say that peace will come in the foreseeable future?

[Answer] Yes, I believe that peace will come. The day of peace will come. I have no doubt of it, but we must overcome the difficulties. They are there, but we must not for one moment weaken our belief that the day of peace will come. [end videotape]

Rabin, Horowitz Comment

TA171921Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 May 78 TA

[Excerpt of radio discussion by MK Yizhaq Rabin and Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Yiga'el Horowitz--date and place not specified--from the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] [Horowitz] As for the aircraft deal, let us give everything its own value. It was not faulty treatment, and not vigorous treatment which caused the agreement to give aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The Cabinet of Israel did its best, just as the other cabinets did their best on this matter. The fact that Saudi Arabia and Egypt received aircraft... we are so fond of flagellating ourselves, even to damage ourselves, and in that way we absolve the Americans, to a great extent, from the commitment they made to you, Yizhaq Rabin.

The U.S. administration promised you planes and it retreated from this. Instead of you and your friends, and I am saying this in the most friendly way, instead of getting up and saying: You have broken a promise--you, they have sold our promise, they have sold it to others, instead of this you are saying the Cabinet of Israel is guilty and because we did it badly you are absolving...the commitment of the U.S. administration--don't you understand this?

[Rabin] I regret to say that I have no doubt that, first of all, it was a violation of a U.S. commitment.

[Horowitz] Fine, not first of all, this is the main, the very main thing.

[Rabin] But the question is how does one fight in order to guarantee the maintenance of a commitment. President Carter, for example, said publicly, and I have a firm basis to assume that his remarks are correct, that the prime minister, at his last meeting with the President, did not put the issue forward.

[Horowitz] Then President Carter thought--let us assume that this is correct. Let us assume. I do not know, it is hard for me to believe...then because Mr Begin did not tell him that, then it is clear that he could break the promise?

[Rabin] I am not saying that the prime minister could have convinced President Carter. President Carter was firm in his decision. The struggle was not, what will the President's position be; the struggle was over the views of the Congress. When a President says the prime minister did not put the issue forward at all, this has an influence on the views and positions of senators about how vital it is for Israel. I think that one of the things that strengthened Israel's position in the past, and I hope in the future, is our ability to present positions to the U.S. public, so that this will have a political expression in the position of Congress, when the matter touches on something as vital as the security of Israel--and I am making a distinction between the political and security issues--until now we have succeeded in bringing about the fact that the Congress had not authorized what it has now authorized in the framework of the aircraft deal.

MA'ARIV on U.S. 'Appeasement'

TA171427Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 May 78 pp 1, 15 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Excerpts] The United States informed Israel that it will be ready to supply it with 20 F-15's, in addition to the quantity promised in the package deal--75 F-16's.

Authoritative U.S. administration elements, who informed Israel of this, were trying to describe the step as a good will gesture toward Israel. Jerusalem, however, does not regard it as something special, since according to the previous agreements Israel could have procured the quantity that is being offered now--20 F-15's--only it had not done so for budgetary considerations (the price of the F-15 is $20 million).

News about the U.S. promise has been received at a time of numerous indications of a U.S. campaign to appease Israel in the wake of the Senate vote yesterday. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance phoned the Israeli ambassador in the United States, Simha Dinitz, yesterday, immediately after the Senate endorsed the three-fold package deal, to explain that no erosion had taken place in the U.S. commitment toward Israel.

In Jerusalem the cabinet is due to discuss the aircraft deal at its coming session, and there is no doubt that Israel will not forfeit its share in that deal, despite its announcement that it prefers that no aircraft be delivered to any of the countries--Egypt, Saudi Arabia or Israel. However, after the fact, when the deal has been endorsed, Israel will not only want to receive its share, but will also open negotiations with Washington to increase its allocation of F-16's to compensate for the gap created in the balance of power to the disadvantage of Israel in the wake of the package deal. The price of an F-16 is $10 million, as compared to $20 million for an F-15.

Ben-Hayyim Commentary

TA171615Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 May 78 p 21 TA

[Sha'ul Ben-Hayyim commentary]

[Excerpts] After the fall on Washington's Capitol Hill, a moral stock-taking has to take place. It must be made on two levels: One--that of U.S.-Israeli relations, which have reached a low unprecedented since 1956, in the days of President Eisenhower and the Sinai campaign; the other--that of the continuation of the dialog about the Middle East or, more precisely, of the Israeli-Egyptian dialog, without which there is a tangible danger that the Arab states will draw the conclusion that Israel has lost U.S. support--and this will in their eyes be an opportune moment to employ their newly acquired power for preparing a new war.

In reassessing the political situation after the vote in the U.S. Senate, the Government of Israel has to resort to the "Egyptian option," which it temporarily abandoned in preference to the "American option."

If anyone contended it was preferable to make gestures to the Americans and in that way enlist them to our side in the negotiations with the Egyptians, he will have to admit now that his hopes have come to nought.

The Government of Israel must therefore act vigorously to resume the dialog with the president of Egypt. As-Sadat has, in fact, already offered an opening. When it was made public (and the facts were already known) that the Egyptian president is ready, under certain conditions, to sign a separate agreement with Israel a real prospect was born for coming to terms with him without U.S. mediation. It was, after all, the United States which came to the president of Egypt, prevailing on him not to enter into a separate settlement with Israel, but to join the U.S. demand to strive for a comprehensive settlement.

When Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman returned from his last visit to Cairo, observers predicted that he would soon be returning there. To that end the cabinet should have adopted decisions on what he should take with him. Instead of adopting such a decision, the cabinet decided on Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's trip to Washington, where he presented outlines of the Israeli plan. It was reported that the Americans would submit the ideas to Cairo. (For what possible reason? Hasn't Israel got a more direct and faster way...?) They might perhaps also receive Egypt's countersuggestions. At that time U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance came here and hinted that the time might be right for the United States to offer its ideas and plans.

If that had been the case, Jerusalem would have had to struggle simultaneously on two fronts, in the face of two plans. In actual fact, however, nothing happened. Cairo did not present a counterproposal. [paragraph continues]

Instead, it has been announced on behalf of the Egyptian president that he is ready to sign on a separate settlement with Israel. As for the U.S. plan--it is to be doubted whether Washington would deem the time appropriate for presenting it, if for no other reason than because of the poor prospect that it might be acceptable to Israel.

In fact, the disclosure of President as-Sadat's new position obliges Israel to discuss it and to adopt decisions, or else the hands will be strengthened of those who claim that Israel is not interested in peace and that its peace plan is only publicity.

The flow of sophisticated arms into the region and the transformation of Saudi Arabia into a confrontation state are steps that endanger peace. Israel must prove that it is trying to enhance the prospect for a dialog between the two strong countries in the Middle East--Israel and Egypt.

HA'AREZ ON WEST BANK ISSUE, U.S. QUESTIONS

TA171130Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 17 May 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] Before the end of this week the United States is expected to approach the Israeli Government in an attempt to secure a positive reply to the questions submitted to Mr Begin and Mr Dayan by the administration in Washington, concerning the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, while stressing that without such a response there is no chance for the negotiations between Cairo and Jerusalem to be renewed; not even on substantive issues as suggested by Mr Dayan.

On Sunday the cabinet is scheduled to discuss the political situation and the conclusions resulting from Dayan's initiative--to refrain from trying to reach an agreed upon formula with Egypt on a declaration of principles, and to replace this with practical negotiations about the arrangements to be introduced in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip after the autonomy period.

When Dayan presented this in Washington, the administration reacted positively. However, it raised two questions in an attempt to clarify whether the cabinet is ready to decide that after the 5-year autonomy the mystery about the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will cease, and how Israel intends to let the Palestinians share in deciding the ultimate future of the regions in question.

Along with the presentation of these questions, Washington created the impression in Jerusalem that a prospect exists of receiving Egyptian counterproposals to the Israeli peace plan. The U.S. administration indeed tried recently to make As-Sadat present a counterproposal. It failed in those efforts.

It seems, however, that an Egyptian willingness is emerging for actual discussions on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but with one proviso--that Jerusalem reply positively to the U.S. questions.

Thus, the cabinet will be faced with the question of whether to propose to the United States a framework coopting the Palestinians in deciding their future (and not by a national referendum as is suggested by Washington), and whether to enter an internal debate about the situation that is to prevail in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after the 5 years of autonomy in order to respond to the demand of Washington to receive a positive Israeli reply to the question: Will the cabinet, after 5 years, be ready to decide who will have sovereignty over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

The cabinet's position will be influenced by the fact that, contrary to expectations, an Egyptian peace plan has not been received, and that there is no Egyptian consent to open negotiations without preconditions on the practical arrangements in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. In any case, it is doubtful that the cabinet will conclude the deliberations at next week's session.

Before the end of this week, a U.S. effort can be expected aimed at persuading Israel to reply to the question, with the reasoning that without this no other way can be seen for a renewal of the negotiations with Egypt. Mr Dayan is to return from Denmark tomorrow and a meeting between him and U.S. Ambassador Lewis is anticipated.

DEFENSE MINISTRY PRESENTS PLAN FOR W. BANK SETTLEMENTS

TA180737Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 May 78 TA

[Text] The head of the general staff's Planning Division, Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, has presented the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs a plan for the establishment of six urban centers in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer notes that the plan essentially represents the ideas of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman on settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

According to the plan, Qarne Shomron will have 2,000 families; Haris, 14,000; An Nabi Salih, 2,000; Ma'ale Adumim, 7,000; Giv'on, 5,000; and Efrat, 8,000. In addition to these six urban centers the plan mentions 10 more settlements, as well as Nahal and military footholds.

A footnote to the plan says that the purpose of the plan is to strengthen the region of Jerusalem and central Samaria. The Planning Division plan contends that not all the settlements that have been constructed in the territories so far have been erected in accordance with criteria of security. The plan also says that a national settlement project cannot be based on a small extremist group, even though it may have a high motivation.

This plan, which reflects the views of 'Ezer Weizman, is tantamount to a reply to the settlement plans of Minister Ari'el Sharon. Weizman's plan also has the support of the ministers of housing and of the treasury. The Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs did not discuss the plan yesterday, and it will apparently join the line of existing plans for settlement in Judaea and Samaria, whose rate of realization will be dictated by political circumstances.

U.S. SAID SEEKING UN CONTROL OF GOOD FENCE

TA171530Y Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] The intention of the United States and of the United Nations is that at the end of the IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon Israel hand over to UN supervision the good fence crossing points on the border with Lebanon. The crossing points are to remain open for Lebanese only. The crossing of Israelis into Lebanon will not be permitted.

It has been learned that concurrently with UN representations, the Americans are exerting pressure on Israel to set a final date for the withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The Americans say that a delay in the withdrawal and the nonimplementation of the Security Council resolution may, in the long run, bring about a condemnation of Israel, which the United States could then hardly afford to avoid joining.

It transpires that the intention is that Israel should no longer maintain the good fence services at the crossing points. The plan is to accede to the wishes of southern Lebanese inhabitants and leave the good fence open; the supervision of the crossing points, however, is to be taken from Israel and entrusted to UNIFIL. They will allow Lebanese to continue crossing into Israel for work, trade and medical treatment, but Israelis will not be permitted to enter Lebanon.

SOVIET-MADE RCL GUN FOUND IN S. LEBANON ARMS CACHE

TA171635Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] An ammunition crate, made to look like it contained medical supplies, containing a Soviet-made recoilless gun, has been discovered in a terrorist arms cache in southern Lebanon, north of Metulla, in a region previously under terrorist control.

The IDF spokesman reports that the crate contains six rounds for the gun, which is known by the name (?SPG-9) or B-14. Guns of this type are, as is known, used by the terrorists. It is worth pointing out that, with the aim of hiding its Soviet origin, the crate was painted white and the symbol of the Arab Red Crescent was painted on it. This is the Arab medical organization equivalent to the International Red Cross. However, on the inside cover of the crate, a dispatch label is affixed with instructions written in Russian from the factory. Production markings in Russian are also to be seen on the rounds.

The Soviet-made (?SPG-9) which is also known as B-14, is one of the most modern of its type. It is used by the Warsaw Pact armies and by the Arab armies using Soviet arms. It is more advanced than the B-10 and B-11. It is a 73 mm weapon with an effective range of between 800 and 1,000 meters.

TERRORIST SQUADS DISCOVERED IN WEST BANK

TA171742Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 May 78 TA

[Text] The security forces have recently uncovered several terrorist squads, among them the squad which bombed the German tourists' bus in Nabulus and the one which placed an explosive in a bus on the 35 line in Jerusalem about a month ago. The IDF spokesman reports that 12 terrorist squads were uncovered and several dozen terrorists arrested. Additional arrests are expected. However, the two people who were the principals in the bus explosion in Nabulus succeeded in escaping to Jordan about a week ago.

MAFDAL CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER PEACE PLAN

TA180730Y Jerusalem POST in English 18 May 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Ramat Gan--The National Religious Party [MAFDAL] called on the government to reconsider its peace proposals at its convention here last night. Before the vote was taken on the political resolutions, the convention heard the chairman of the NRP Political Committee, Party Secretary Zevi Bernstein, read a statement calling on the government to think again about its peace plan, in the light of the U.S. decision to sell sophisticated fighter planes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The convention then overwhelmingly passed a resolution saying that the party's continued presence in the government depends on its not giving up any part of Eretz Yisra'el as part of a negotiated peace settlement.

In clear opposition to the government's proposal to restore Egyptian sovereignty to the entire Sinai Peninsula, including the Yamit area, the NRP convention decided that "settlements established or to be established with the government's consent will not be turned over to foreign sovereignty."

The convention stated that the basic principle that should guide the government in negotiations for a peace settlement must be "our religious-historical right over all of the Promised Land." It rejected "any plan containing any thought of ceding any part of historical Eretz Yisra'el, the land of our forefathers."

The convention decided that the NRP's continued participation in the cabinet will be based on the implementation of these principles.

A clause in the convention's political resolution adopted by a near-unanimous vote demanded that the status of all "temporary settlements" in Judaea, Samaria and on the Golan Heights be changed to permanent, "with all that entails, including the concentration of lands." Gush Emunim sources say the last phrase refers to unused Arab-owned land which they want taken over for use by the settlements.

MAFDAL Conference Concludes

TA180530Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 May 78 TA

[Excerpt] The MAFDAL conference was concluded at 0500 today, after it endorsed a number of resolutions and elected the party institutions. Dani'el Bermut, from the Young Guard faction, was elected secretary general, in lieu of Zevi Bernstein.

The conference adopted the political platform of the MAFDAL, including the rejection of any plan apt to imply forfeiture of parts of Eretz Yisra'el. The conference demands of the government to work out an official plan for settlements in every part of Eretz Yisra'el, including Judaea, Samaria and the Golan. The government is urged to transform all temporary settlements to permanent settlements immediately. The conference also says that settlements that were or will be established on behalf of the government will not be handed over to foreign sovereignty.

On the other hand, a proposal for a decision that no settlement should be evacuated in the wake of the peace negotiations was rejected.

PEACE NOW MEMBERS HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

TA171503Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 May 78 TA

[Text] Members of the Peace Now Movement convened a press conference in Jerusalem today, in which they said they did not intend to turn the movement into an institutionalized party. However, they will work to get the cabinet to make its positions more flexible in the negotiations, with a willingness for territorial compromise. In their view, the U.S. decision to supply fighter aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt together with Israel is the result of the Israeli Cabinet's policy. The spokesmen expressed the fear that now, following the U.S. decision, the cabinet will make its positions even harder. The movement's members emphasized that their slogan, Peace Now, does not mean that peace should be signed right away, at any price. Their intention is that now there is a chance of achieving peace and now is the time to conduct negotiations with a willingness for compromise.

FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN TALKS TO SCANDINAVIAN NEWSPAPERS

Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET 11 May

LD161411Y Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 11 May 78 p 10 LD

[John Thorud report on Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's 10 May Oslo press conference]

[Text] "If the UN forces in southern Lebanon allow the PLO to carry out hostile acts against Israel, do people expect us in Israel to sit with our hands in our laps? That is the question," Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said in reply to a question as to whether Israel in a given situation would fight against the UN forces. "The question is, of course, hypothetical, and I cannot foresee the future. But if the UN forces do not manage to fulfill their duties and purge the area of alien soldiers and of Palestinian terrorists who attack us, we will have to retaliate. A situation in which the PLO operates under UN protection would be a serious breach of confidence on the UN side, and I hope we will not encounter such a situation," Dayan said.

Asked whether Israel had broken an agreement with the United States on the nonuse of cluster bombs, Foreign Minister Dayan replied that the use of such cluster bombs in southern Lebanon was a mistake by the Israelis. Dayan explained that the Israeli defense minister was new and did not know of the agreement with the United States banning the use of the cluster bombs.

Of the U.S. sale of fighters to Saudi Arabia, Dayan said that it is feared that Saudi Arabia would use the planes against Israel and that Israel opposes such a package deal as the United States has planned. Thus there is great opposition to this aircraft sale.

Dayan rejected criticism of Israel's collaboration with the apartheid regime in South Africa. He said that by this collaboration no UN resolutions are being breached and that Israel strongly opposes the apartheid policy and has expressed this by its votes in the United Nations, among other things. Asked why Israel supports the military regime in Ethiopia in its war against the Eritreans and Somalis, Dayan replied that Ethiopia asked to buy a few weapons from Israel--which was approved. As far as Dayan knew, this was not breaching any UN resolution.

Of his visit to Norway Dayan said that he used the time to submit Israel's view of the Middle East conflict to many individuals and groups of Norwegians. Yet he added that neither the foreign minister nor the prime minister said that Norway is in favor of a Palestinian state. He himself considered that a Palestinian state on the West Bank, where the PLO might gain a foothold, would provide the PLO with the opportunity to try to destroy Israel. Israel wants autonomy for the West Bank and those people who live there might be allowed to choose whether they want Jordanian or Israeli citizenship, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said at the press conference at the conclusion of his visit to Norway.

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER 13 May

LD161249Y Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 13 May 78 p 24 LD

[V. Pagels report on Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's 12 May Stockholm press conference]

[Excerpts] "We reject the PLO as a negotiating partner but not the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank. We see no place for a Palestinian state on the West Bank which would only be a springboard for Palestinian attacks against Israel. The Swedish Government obviously considers that we ought to accept the PLO and a Palestinian state."

According to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's statements at the press conference on Friday which marked the end of his official visit to Sweden, these were the points on which there was the greatest difference of opinion between the Israeli and Swedish views of the problems in the Middle East.

Dayan opened the press conference by eloquently thanking the Swedish Government and the Swedish people for their part in the international scene and especially stressed Swedish aid to Jews since World War II. He went so far as to describe the current talks with Swedish Government representatives as "productive."

Tough Talks

In the speech Swedish Foreign Minister Karin Soder delivered at her lunch for Dayan earlier that day it was hinted that the talks were rather tough--"frank and friendly."

Karin Soder remarked that there are aspects of Israeli policy which, from the Swedish viewpoint, are disturbing and that the Israeli and Swedish views differ on a number of crucial points such as the interpretation of UN Resolution 242, the settlements policy and the question of self-determination for the Palestinian Arabs.

Asked at the press conference whether Israel achieved its aim in the Lebanon war, Dayan explained that the PLO has been expelled from its bases close to the border and that Israel never intended staying in Lebanon.

He said he hopes that the presence of UN forces will prevent the PLO from reestablishing itself in the area. In line with his previous explanation that Israel does not want to be dependent on UN troops along its borders, he said he hopes that a Lebanese army will gradually assume responsibility.

Dayan was unable to see an immediate opening for peace talks, but he opined that while As-Sadat is trying to rally other Arab leaders to his policy it seems premature to declare As-Sadat's peace initiative dead.

"I understand his difficulties and wish him luck."

Of the growing peace movement in Israel Dayan opined that the Israelis can choose the government they want and that he has tried in vain to discover specifically what the peace activists want the government to do.

The press conference was brief--barely 15 minutes--and ended very abruptly. Dayan left without concluding with the usual: "Any more questions?"

REQUEST TO OPEN DUBLIN EMBASSY REPORTED; REPORT DENIED

TA161413Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 16 May 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Israel and Egypt have asked to open official representations in Dublin, the capital of Ireland. The Egyptian request was made some time ago, while the Israeli request was made tonight by the ambassador in London, Avraham Qidron. From London, Mikha Limor reports: [begin recording]

Both Israel and Egypt have full diplomatic relations with Ireland; however, neither country has found it necessary to maintain an official representation in Dublin, the capital of the republic with a population of 3 million.

The Egyptian and Israeli ambassadors in London have been accredited to Ireland as well--that is, they are nonresident ambassadors. The Irish welcomed this arrangement. Indeed, their relation toward the two Middle Eastern countries is warm, but Ireland enjoyed not getting involved with security problems connected with guarding sensitive installations. They have enough homemade security problems in connection with British rule in Northern Ireland and the Catholic underground there.

Since no Arab country maintains an embassy or a representation in Ireland, neither did Israel demand that its presence be demonstrated. However, following a MENA report, it transpired that Egypt has decided to open a representation in Dublin. The Israeli Foreign Ministry decided not to lag behind, and tonight, during a reception in Dublin marking Israel's 30th anniversary, Ambassador Avraham Qidron raised the issue before his guests. Israel's demand to open an official representation in Dublin will be dealt with in depth today between Mr Qidron and the Irish foreign minister, Michael O'Kennedy. Opening a representation in Dublin to maintain a balance with Egypt will cost the Israeli taxpayer approximately 12 million Israeli pounds a year. [end recording]

As opposed to the above report, our political correspondent reports that the Foreign Ministry has flatly denied what was reported and our correspondent has been told that Ambassador Qidron visited Ireland within the framework of a routine visit of a nonresident ambassador in the country to which he is accredited.

BEGIN DISCUSSES FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE; FUTURE

TA171853Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] A year ago today the nation of Israel went to the polls to elect its representatives to the ninth Knesset. When the polls closed and the votes were counted, we gained a new word in the vocabulary of the renewed Hebrew language--turnover [mahapakh]. Our political correspondent Shalom Qital went to the leader of the Likud, who that same day became the prime minister of Israel, Menahem Begin, and had a chat with him. [begin recording]

[Question] We are in the prime minister's office. On the table there are several editions of the book REVOLT in English, and this certainly was not part of the scenery in the prime minister's office only a year ago. Mr Prime Minister, maybe this in fact symbolizes the turnover?

[Answer] I have never used the term turnover; it is an artificial word. There were democratic elections in Israel. The public raised the Likud to the rank of the first party, with authority to form a cabinet. The books lying here are, it is true, the books of the revolt and friends ask me to autograph a book for them. I do it willingly almost every day, sometimes in Hebrew, sometimes in English, sometimes in another language. Look, these are completely human things, they have no connection with the cabinet's work, of course. I will continue to do this willingly at my friends' requests.

As for this day, in accordance with the accepted reckoning, it is a year since the elections in Israel. I want to say that this is a good day, in my evaluation, for the decisive majority of the people of Israel. True, I do not deny it, we also have difficulties in the political sphere, there are still difficulties in the economic sphere, but this is basically a good cabinet. It has done a great deal to change the situation for the better. I remember what was written in the press and in the international press a year ago or half a year ago, what issues were written about.

Today there is argument on political, economic issues, but, from the moral aspect the situation has been very greatly improved and we will indeed continue to serve the nation in accordance with the trust we have been given.

[Question] I remember, Mr Begin, that you spoke about a different spirit which you expected in this nation. After a year--true, it is only a year, but nevertheless a year--is there a different spirit in this nation? After such dramatic changes in rule?

[Answer] Yes, I think the spirit is different here. There is proof that the public could democratically establish a new cabinet. There is a difference. Right, I will not deny it. There were two periods: during the first period, there was a lifting of spirits; now there are the difficulties. Let us not forget that there was the dramatic event, the visit by the president of Egypt, As-Sadat, to Jerusalem and today there are difficulties because we are being asked to give everything, to retreat to the lines of 4 June 1967. These are demands to surrender. We are naturally not accepting them. We must stand up to this test. I think that we are standing up very well. The same applies to the relations with the United States. Last July and December there was a lifting of spirits, now we have difficulties. Decisions have been made which are grave as far as we are concerned. So, of course, there are different views among the public, but these are completely natural things. We are halfway along the road. We are approaching changes for the better in the future.

[Question] What would you like to accomplish? Let us speak of at least another 3 years until the official date of the next elections.

[Answer] First, I would like war to be prevented. Secondly, that we bring peace close and make it. We will not cease to act and to think in both these directions, even with all the difficulties that have been created.

Of course, I would like a basic change with regard to those suffering families who are living, with many children, in bad housing conditions. We have, in fact, done something about this and we have called on the nation. Of course, the solution cannot come all at once, but we have called on the Jewish people to help and aid has been promised us to solve this problem. I hope that during this period we will do a great deal to solve it. The minister of housing and construction is making efforts.

I would like the moral problems to be solved, relations between man and man, development of the economy. We have done very important things in this sphere. We have brought in free high school education. This is a most important reform and all praise is due to the minister of education and the minister of finance who came to a practical agreement on this matter. Well, all these things are still ahead of us. [end recording]

AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN-USSR SIGN ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

Powerline Construction

LD262202Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1230 GMT 16 May 78 LD

[Text] An agreement on the construction of the Naghlu-Jalalabad transmission line and the Jalalabad substation was signed yesterday between the Ministry of Water and Power and the Office of the Economic Attache of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. The agreement was signed at the Ministry of Water and Power in the presence of Prof Mohammad Mansur Hashemi, minister of water and power, by Dr Raz-Mohammad Taqdim, deputy minister of water and power, for Afghanistan, and by the economic attache of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul for the Soviet Technokhromeksport. Under the agreement, which is being concluded in accordance with the development programs and the main policies governing the tasks of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to accelerate the country's economic growth rate, and which is financed by an unconditional loan, operations relating to the Naghlu-Jalalabad transmission line and the construction of the Jalalabad substation will be completed within the next 18 months. A Water and Power Ministry source has said the 95-km long transmission line will have a capacity of 110 kilovolts and the Jalalabad substation a capacity of 30,000 kilovolts. The source added that the engineering and construction work associated with the project costing 2,975,000 rubles will be paid by the Soviet Union. Some 11 Soviet technicians will also work on the project.

Copper Smelting Project

LD162204Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1230 GMT 16 May 78 LD

[Text] An agreement relating to technical and economic feasibility studies of the Aynak Copper Mines' copper concentrate and smelting project was signed between Afghan and Soviet officials at the Ministry of Planning yesterday. Under the agreement, which was signed by Deputy Planning Minister Haji Mohammad Karim for Afghanistan and by Boris Titov, the Soviet economic attache in Kabul, for the Soviet Union, the economic and technical report relating to the project will be prepared by Soviet specialists. A Ministry of Planning source has said that this, as well as other such agreements, had previously been drafted, but that because of the bureaucratic corruption of the previous regime, no action had been taken on them.

Agricultural Project

LD162206Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 May 78 LD/BK

[Text] The complementary documents relating to the agreement on the purchase of equipment and the employment of specialists needed for the development project in Nangarhar Province was signed today in Kabul by the Ministry of Agriculture and the office of the economic attache of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. The complementary documents were signed for the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture by the deputy minister and for the Soviet Union by the economic attache of that country's embassy in Kabul.

Oil and Gas Development

JN161345Y Kabul in Arabic to the Arab World 1000 GMT 16 May 78 JN

[Text] A discussion was held in Kabul today on an agreement to cover foodstuffs, basic materials and equipment, (?transport vehicles) and necessary spare parts for 1978 for purposes of a (?search) for oil and gas in seven northern regions. [Words indistinct] of Afghan oils worth R16,064,200 between the Afghan and Soviet sides. The agreement was signed on the Afghan side by Engineer Abdolqazi Rasuli, under secretary of mines and industries. On the Soviet side it was signed by Boris Titov, economic attache at the Soviet Embassy.

According to the agreement, which was signed at the Planning Ministry building, 18 thousand tons of foodstuffs, necessary equipment and materials [word indistinct] study of the geology and geophysics as well as the study of the (?northern) region. [Words indistinct] the Afghan oils to the Ministry of Mines and Industries of Afghanistan within 24 months as of this agreement's signature.

AFGHAN-CSSR COAL MINING AGREEMENT SIGNED

LD162208Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1230 GMT 16 May 78 LD

[Text] A $3 million purchase of equipment for the better exploitation of the northern coal mines financed from a long term loan supplied by the friendly Government of Czechoslovakia was signed between Afghan and Czechoslovak officials in Kabul yesterday. The agreement was signed for Afghanistan by the head of the Northern Coal Mines Department of the Ministry of Mines and Industries and for Czechoslovakia by the economic attache of the Czechoslovak Embassy in Kabul. The minister of mines and industries was also present during the signing ceremony.

AFGHAN REPRESENTATIVE LEAVES FOR MOSCOW TRADE TALKS

LD171750Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1700 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Text] Our representative in Kabul reports that Abdossalam Mo'ini, supervisor of the Afghan Ministry of Trade, today left for Moscow leading a delegation to conduct trade talks between Afghanistan and the USSR. According to the information, the Afghan delegation will sign a trade protocol in Moscow for 1978. Our representative in Kabul also reports that the Afghan minister of foreign affairs today left for Cuba leading a delegation to participate in the sixth session of the representatives of the nonalined countries being held in Havana.

TANJUG: RESTRICTIONS ON TOURISTS INTRODUCED

LD171756Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1705 GMT 17 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Kabul--Afghan authorities have introduced the first restrictions on visits by foreign citizens to this country. Foreign tourists, regardless of their nationality, will now be able to stay in Afghanistan only 4 days if they do not have an airplance ticket for onward journey. They will be able to stay a maximum of 7 days if they have such a ticket. It is also envisaged that "until further notice" no visas for visits by foreign journalists will be issued. Immediately after the recent changes, the Afghan regime allowed free entry to all foreign journalists. No restrictions, however, are envisaged for official and business visits.

AFGHAN PEOPLE CONTINUE TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR TARAKI

JN171244Y Kabul in Arabic to the Arab World 1000 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Text] The inhabitants of the areas of (Sharan) and (Takawah) of the (Ghaznah) at 1630 the day before yesterday met with Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, at his office. Deputy minister of radio and television (?Khayr Mohammad Katawazi) attended.

During the meeting, Taraki congratulated the above-mentioned delegates on the remarkable victory of the [words indistinct] revolution. Taraki added: This revolution was not a coup which took place through [words indistinct] at night but was a revolutionary action which came on a shining day under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party and through the heroic soldiers--your valiant sons who offered sacrifices. The revolution toppled, in the shortest possible time, the leaders of the [word indistinct] despotic and executioners and blew up the palaces of injustice and aggression.

Nur Mohammad Taraki added: Now all the Afghan people are brothers. Afghan, (Hazarah), (Nuristani), (Katawazi) and other areas are only names distinguishing the various nationalities of this country. However, all are brothers and equal. The enemies of the supreme plan are the ones who tried and are still trying to portray these names in different ways and to sow among us the seeds of difference and division. We have absolute faith that the enemies of the homeland can no longer, through cunning and tricks, undermine the ties of fraternity and unity which link us in a strong way.

Nur Mohammad Taraki added: We know full well the pains of every citizen of this country, including the toilers and the miserable ones. We know full well what we should do for the people. We know full well how to heal the terrible wounds of ignorance and backwardness from which this miserable country is suffering. I hope that all of the Afghan people will act with full determination to support their popular regime and repair again this broken ship.

One of the representatives presented his congratulations on this happy occasion to Taraki. He said: Since you and your companions believe in God, respect the sacred Islamic religion, love the homeland and have acted to achieve progress for the country and prosperity for the people, God will give you victory. We assure you that all citizens of this country are marshalling their resources to achieve the goals of the revolution. Almighty God will help you achieve your sacred goals.

BANGLADESH

SHAMSUL HAQ ON NEED FOR BURMA TO REPATRIATE REFUGEES

BK171559Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 May 78 BK

[Text] The presidential adviser for foreign affairs, Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq, has said the real solution of the Burmese refugees problem lies in the early repatriation and rehabilitation in their own country. He was talking to newsmen on his return to Dacca from Cox's Bazar this afternoon where he visited the refugee camps. The adviser mentioned the various steps taken by the Bangladesh Government for the (?solution) of the humanitarian problem.

Mr Haq said the total number of refugees in eight camps now stood at 130,000. The majority are children and women. He said visitors to these camps, including many from foreign countries, were deeply moved by the pitiful plight of the refugees.

The adviser thought that if the Burmese authorities visited the camp, they would also be moved similarly and convinced of the bonafides of these Burmese nationals for which they have national registration certificates and other documentary proof.

Mr Haq called upon the Burmese Government to make arrangements for the immediate repatriation of the refugees. He said the refugees had expressed their gratitude to the Bangladesh Government for the humanitarian consideration shown to them in providing temporary shelters.

DACCA RADIO AIRS OPPOSITION CANDIDATE'S ELECTION VIEWS

BK171558Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 May 78 BK

[Text] The presidential candidate of the Gonotantrik Oikko Joth, retired Gen M.A.G. Osmani, has said that his main objective is to restore the people's rights through the establishment of a parliamentary system of government on the basis of the 1972 constitution. Addressing a public meeting at Tangail today, he said as soon as the parliamentary elections are over, he will hand over power to the elected representatives of the people.

Retired Gen Osmani said the component parties of the alliance will go to the people with their respective manifestos during the parliamentary elections.

DELHI: DACCA NEWSMEN INJURED IN CLASH WITH POLICE

BK171027Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 17 May 78 BK

[Text] Twenty-two newsmen were injured in Dacca yesterday following a police cane charge on a procession brought out by journalists in support of their demands. The demands include restoration of the freedom of the press and withdrawal of the ban on the publication of nearly half a dozen newspapers. Four of the injured were hospitalized. Twenty-three journalists, including the secretary general of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and the Dacca Union of Journalists, were arrested and later released.

A government press note said that the incident took place when the police tried to disperse a procession taken out in violation of the ban.

PAKISTAN

AFP: PAKISTAN DENIES ITS TROOPS PRESENT IN SOMALIA

BK171603Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1617 GMT 17 May 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, May 17 (AFP)--Pakistan today denied a "totally baseless" Ethiopian allegation that Pakistani troops were present in Somalia.

An official spokesman said Pakistan's stand was that the dispute between Ethiopia and Sonalia should be resolved peacefully in accordance with the United Nations Charter and under the auspices of the Organization for African Unity.

SUPREME COURT TO BEGIN BHUTTO TRIAL 20 MAY

BK171720Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 May 78 BK

[Text] The hearing of the appeal in the Supreme Court against the judgment of the Lahore High Court in the murder case of Mr Mohammad Ahmed Khan is to begin in Rawalpindi on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Mr Zulfigar Ali Bhutto has been shifted from the Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore, to Rawalpindi.

SRI LANKA

AFP: SEARCH CONTINUES FOR TERRORIST 'LIBERATION TIGERS'

BK170959Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0648 GMT 17 May 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, May 17 (AFP)--The police have intercepted a message sent by the "liberation tigers" movement warning its members abroad to lie low, police sources said.

A youth carrying several passports and documents which contained a copy of a message to its overseas members, warning them to suspend activities as the police were on their trail, was arrested yesterday, the sources said.

The underground terrorist movement is said to have cells in several foreign countries, including Britain, India, Malaysia, Singapore and the gulf states. The members of these cells are Sri Lankan Tamils working abroad. The self-styled "liberation tigers" movement consists of militant Tamil youth who are pressing Tamil leaders not to compromise with the government on their demand for a separate state for the minority Tamil community who live mainly in the northern and eastern provinces.

The movement has claimed responsibility for a number of killings, including the murder of six policemen. One of the terrorists arrested on Monday in connection with the slaying of a team of four police officers last month was brought to Colombo yesterday under heavy security from Hatton in the tea-growing hill country where he was seized.

Police cooperating with the armed forces are continuing their search for three other members of the "liberation tigers" gang wanted in connection with the killing of the policemen. Police sources said yesterday's reports of the arrest of another of these wanted men was a case of mistaken identity. Meanwhile, in the flushing out operations the security forces have arrested a large number of members of the underground movement which operated mainly in the north.

When Parliament meets tomorrow, the prime minister, Ranasinghe Premadasa, will move suspension of standing orders to debate to the finish a bill to proscribe the "liberation tigers" movement and similar terrorist organisations.

BRIEFS

BANGLADESH-HUNGARIAN TRADE PROTOCOL--Bangladesh and Hungary are to exchange goods worth $4.75 million each way under the sixth barter protocol signed between the two countries. The protocol was signed in Budapest early this week after negotiations between the Hungarian officials and the two-member Bangladesh trade delegation now visiting Hungary. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 78 BK]

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